



WASHINGTON WILDLIFE & RECREATION PROGRAM:

HABITAT CONSERVATION
ACCOUNT AND RIPARIAN
PROTECTION ACCOUNT

*POLICIES AND
PROJECT SELECTION*

10b

June 2006

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation

Our Mission Provide leadership and funding to help our partners protect and enhance Washington's natural and recreational resources for current and future generations.

Our Services Statewide strategic investments through policy development, grant funding, technical assistance, coordination, and advocacy.

Our Values Efficient, fair, and open programs conducted with integrity. The results foster healthy lifestyles and communities, stewardship, and economic prosperity in Washington.



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INTRODUCTION

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) was established in 1990 with the passage of Chapter 79A.15 RCW (Appendix A—recodified from 43.98A in 1999 and updated in 2005).

WWRP provides funding assistance for a broad range of land protection, park development, habitat conservation, farmland preservation, and outdoor recreation facilities. This landmark legislation and subsequent funding have come about through the support of the Governor, legislature, and dedication of groups such as the many organizations comprising the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition.

IAC

The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) administers WWRP. IAC is an executive branch agency composed of five citizen members appointed by the Governor and three state agency directors. The term "IAC," however, commonly refers to this director/citizen board *and* its staff, led by a director. Whenever it is important to distinguish among these parties, this manual uses the words "*board*," "*staff*," or "*Director*," as appropriate.

Manual Authority and Scope

This manual has been prepared to provide WWRP – Habitat Conservation Account (HCA) and Riparian Protection Account (RPA) information. It will provide the reader with a basic understanding of program definitions, characteristics, and guidelines. For more information on WWRP, see Manual #10a for the Outdoor Recreation Account and Manual #10f for the Farmland Preservation Program.

This manual is created under the authority granted to IAC's board in the enabling legislation for WWRP [RCW 79A.15.060(1), 79A.15.070(1) and (5), 79A.15.120(4), and 79A.15.130(4)]. It reflects the specific statutory requirements of Chapter 79A.15 RCW, Chapter 286 WAC, and policies of IAC.

IAC's board adopted the policies in this manual in a public meeting.

Program Goals

WWRP has two primary goals:

First, to assist with the rapid acquisition of the most significant lands for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation purposes before they are converted to other uses; and

Second, to develop existing public recreation land and facilities to meet the needs of present and future generations.

RCW 79A.15.005

**INFORMATION
SOURCES**

Contact IAC at:

Natural Resources Building	Phone (360) 902-3000
1111 Washington Street, Floor 2 East	FAX (360) 902-3026
P.O. Box 40917	TDD (360) 902-1996
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917	E-mail: info@iac.wa.gov
Internet Web Site: http://www.iac.wa.gov/	

**Related
Publications**

Related IAC program manuals include:

- ▶ Planning Policies - #2
- ▶ Acquiring Land: Policies - #3
- ▶ Development Projects: Policies - #4
- ▶ IAC Application Forms & Procedures - #5
- ▶ Funded Projects: Policies & the Project Agreement - #7
- ▶ Reimbursements: IAC/SRFB Grant Programs - #8
- ▶ WWRP: Outdoor Recreation Account - #10a
- ▶ WWRP: Farmland Preservation Program - #10f

Each year, IAC publishes a brochure describing the grant programs available for that cycle. Additionally, IAC prepares annual schedules for all grant programs. These schedules identify important application deadlines as well as meeting dates and locations. (WWRP's funding process is outlined in *Project Selection Timeline*, page 19).

Contact IAC to obtain copies of these free publications. For persons with special needs, each can be made available in an alternative format.

Workshops

IAC conducts annual workshops to provide information about its funding programs. Workshops are generally held in the winter and/or early spring of each year at various state locations. Contact IAC for information about dates and locations.

Facility managers certify all IAC meeting sites as barrier free according to federal *Americans With Disabilities Act* or WAC 51.30.1100 standards. To request other disability accommodations, such as listening aids and/or alternative format handout material, contact IAC at least 14 days before the event.

ELIGIBILITY The eligibility requirements for the Habitat Conservation Account (HCA) and the Riparian Protection Account (RPA) are described below.

Eligible Applicants By funding account and category, eligible participants are shown in the following table:

WWRP HCA and RPA: ELIGIBLE PROJECT SPONSORS			
ACCOUNT-CATEGORY	STATE AGENCIES¹	LOCAL AGENCIES² including NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES	OTHER
HCA – Critical Habitat	✓	✓	-
HCA – Natural Areas	✓	-	-
HCA – State Lands Restoration and Enhancement	-	-	WDNR and WDFW only
HCA – Urban Wildlife Habitat	✓	✓	-
RPA – Riparian Protection	✓ ³	✓	Lead entities ⁴

Legal Opinion A legal opinion by the project applicant's attorney is required for all first time applicants to WWRP. The opinion must state that the applicant is legally authorized to acquire and develop public open space, habitat, farmland, and/or recreation facilities. See Manual 5, *LAC Application Forms & Procedures* for more information pertaining to the legal opinion.

Planning Requirements At least three months before IAC's first meeting (fall of even-numbered years) for funding consideration of WWRP habitat projects, applicants must establish eligibility by submitting evidence that their agency or organization has adopted a comprehensive habitat conservation plan. This plan is required for submittal of grant applications to WWRP. Plans accepted by IAC establish eligibility for up to six years. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that plans and documents are current. For further information, consult Manual 2, *Planning Policies*.

¹ "State agencies," means State Parks and the Washington Departments of Natural Resources (WDNR), General Administration, and Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

² "Local agencies" means a city, county, town, federally recognized Native American tribe, special purpose district, port district, or other political subdivision of the state providing services to less than the entire state if legally authorized to acquire and develop public open space, habitat, farmland, riparian habitat, or recreation facilities.

³ Other state agencies not defined in RCW 79A.15.010, such as the Departments of Transportation and Corrections, may enter into interagency agreements with state agencies, named in RCW 79A.15.010, to apply in partnership for funds.

⁴ Lead entities as defined by RCW 77.85.050.

ACCOUNTS AND CATEGORIES

By statute, WWRP funding is divided into four accounts: 1) the Habitat Conservation Account, 2) the Outdoor Recreation Account, 3) the Farmlands Preservation Account, and 4) the Riparian Protection Account.

Accounts

The accounts receive appropriated funds as determined by RCW 79A.15. The chart in Appendix B illustrates distribution of appropriated funds for WWRP and the amounts available for each of the four accounts. The first two accounts contain specific funding categories.

Habitat Conservation Account

- Critical Habitat
- Natural Areas
- State Lands Restoration and Enhancement
- Urban Wildlife Habitat

Outdoor Recreation Account

- Local Parks
- State Lands Development and Renovation
- State Parks
- Trails
- Water Access

Each category is designed to provide for a specific project type.

Categorization of Projects

Projects submitted for WWRP funding assistance are placed in a category based on project characteristics, intent, and scope. As a part of the application process, an applicant submits the proposal to a specific WWRP category. IAC staff will review the applicant's choice for compliance with category criteria and definitions and notify applicants of any recommended changes. Staff's decision to change categories may be appealed to IAC's Director and, if necessary, IAC's board.

A WWRP project will be evaluated in only one category. At the applicant's discretion, projects appropriate to more than one category may be divided into more than one "stand-alone" project and submitted separately.

A project's account-category is of major importance in the evaluation process. Any applicant's change to a project's account-category must be made by the technical completion deadline, unless otherwise authorized by the Director.

**Grant Program
Categories**

WWRP categories for the Habitat Conservation Account and the Riparian Protection Account are described as follows:

HCA - Critical Habitat Category

- ▶ Provides habitat for wildlife including game and non-game species, food fish, shellfish, freshwater, anadromous and other fish including, but not limited to, habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.
- ▶ Includes habitats such as wetlands, forests, shrub-steppe, deer/elk winter range, riparian zones, and salt or freshwater fish and shellfish habitats.
- ▶ May include public use for both consumptive and non-consumptive activities as well as acquisition for species protection and/or enhancement.
- ▶ May include habitat enhancement or creation.
- ▶ Where public use is appropriate, projects may include limited development of public facilities such as roads, trails, parking, rest rooms, signing and fencing to allow public use and enjoyment.
- ▶ May exclude public use, if needed to protect habitat and species.
- ▶ Projects involving renovation of an existing facility are ineligible.

HCA - Natural Areas Category

- ▶ Areas set aside to protect high quality, representative native ecosystems or unique plant or animal communities, endangered, threatened or sensitive species, rare geological features or similar features of scientific or educational value.
- ▶ Must have, to a major degree, retained their natural character.
- ▶ Must be managed primarily for resource preservation, protection and study, and may provide limited or no public use.
- ▶ Where public use is appropriate, projects may include limited development of public facilities, such as signing, fencing, trails, parking, rest rooms, and roads associated with a trailhead.
- ▶ Projects involving renovation of an existing facility are ineligible.

HCA - State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

- ▶ “**Restoration** means bringing a site back to its original function through activities that can be reasonably expected to result in a site that is to the degree possible self sustaining; that is, the site will not require continual intervention to function as a predominately natural ecosystem.”
- ▶ “**Enhancement** improves the ecological functionality of a site”
- ▶ Restoration or enhancement must occur on existing state land.⁵
- ▶ May include habitat enhancement or creation.
- ▶ May include reintroduction of native vegetation, altering or removing structures.
- ▶ May include wetlands, forests, shrub-steppe, riparian zones, salt or

⁵ Lands currently owned by the state of Washington or land held in trust by the state.

freshwater habitats, and other native ecosystems or habitats native to Washington state.

- ▶ May exclude public use, if needed to protect habitat and species.
- ▶ Should be managed primarily for resource preservation and protection.

HCA - Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

- ▶ To be eligible for consideration in the Urban Wildlife Habitat category, a proposal must lie:
 - Within the corporate limits of a city or town with a population of at least 5,000 or within five miles of such a city or town (or its adopted urban growth area boundary); or
 - In, or within 5 miles of an adopted Urban Growth Area (UGA) in a county that has a population density of at least 200 people per square mile.
- ▶ Provides habitat for wildlife species, food fish, shellfish, or freshwater or marine fish.
- ▶ May serve as a corridor for wildlife movement in existing populated areas.
- ▶ May include and encourage public use for wildlife interpretation and observation.
- ▶ Development of facilities will be limited to such elements as fencing, interpretive/observation trails, interpretive signs/kiosks, rest rooms, parking, and creation or enhancement of habitat.
- ▶ Projects involving renovation of an existing facility are ineligible.

RPA - Riparian Protection Category

- ▶ Projects must include acquisition of real property interest.
- ▶ Projects must provide for riparian habitat protection for land adjacent to any water body and/or its submerged lands.
- ▶ Riparian habitat may include shorelines, nearshore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams and rivers.
- ▶ Projects may include functional habitat for salmonids, other fish and wildlife species.
- ▶ Projects may include restoration or enhancement of the property to be acquired.
- ▶ Projects may include passive public access, if appropriate.
- ▶ Projects may include costs for development of stewardship plans.
- ▶ Projects may include extension of leases for land currently enrolled in the Conservation Enhancement Reserve Program. The extension must be for a minimum of 25 years.

**PROGRAM LIMITS
AND GUIDELINES**

IAC's intent is that its funds will be allocated to projects with the greatest need and those where the greatest benefit can be achieved.

**Statutory
Minimums**

Chapter 79A.15 RCW

Each WWRP category must receive a specified percentage of the funds appropriated for the program. While state law requires that these minimum percentages be met over the life of the program, it is IAC's intent to generally meet them, by category, each biennium. However, IAC's board retains the discretion to forego these statutory minimums in any one biennium, should circumstances so warrant.

**Fund
Appropriation,
Recommended
Projects, and
Alternates**

WWRP funds are appropriated through the legislative process biennially and distributed by IAC during the first year of the biennium.

Each biennium IAC's board recommends to the Governor specific projects for funding. These recommendations are in the form of a ranked list, by category, whose total value exceeds requested WWRP funding. More projects are recommended than requested funding in order that "alternate" projects can be ready if projects higher on the list are withdrawn, are unable to be completed, or use fewer funds than requested. These situations can occur due to problems such as finding a willing seller, obtaining permits, local bond passage, loss of matching resources, etc.

Projects that, because of their relative ranking, are beyond available funding levels are known as "alternate projects." Alternate projects are submitted in both the HCA and RPA, usually in an amount equal to 50 percent of the dollar amount requested for each category. When possible, no fewer than six alternate projects are submitted.

**Legislative
Approval and
Appropriations**

After receiving the list from IAC, the Governor has the statutory authority to remove individual projects prior to forwarding final recommendations to the legislature. The legislature may also remove individual projects. Project lists approved by the legislature in any one biennium are to be completed to the fullest extent possible within the biennial appropriation. Biennial project lists are to remain active until funding is exhausted or no feasible projects remain. If a biennial list is completed and appropriation authority remains, these funds may be allocated subject to legislative appropriation to new projects in future biennia.

**Matching
Resources**

Normally, once every four years at a meeting six months before funding consideration, IAC establishes sponsor matching share requirements and fund request limits. When requiring a match from an applicant for IAC administered funds, or giving preference to an applicant that provides a match, it is the intent of the Board to do so to foster local commitment to the proposed project and to demonstrate that commitment, and to make funds from a given grant program (and revenue source) available to a greater number of projects.

WAC 286-13-045

Local Agencies, Native American Tribes, and Lead Entities. Local agencies, Native American tribes, and lead entities must match WWRP funds. By statute, the minimum sponsor match is 50 percent for *each* project.

1. The match may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Appropriations or cash
 - b. Bonds
 - c. Donations of cash, land, labor, equipment, and materials
 - d. Federal, state, local and private grants (includes IAC grants, see #2 below), and/or
 - e. Force account⁶ labor, equipment, and materials.
2. An IAC grant may be used to help meet the match requirements of another IAC grant if:
 - a. The grants are not from the same IAC grant program.
 - b. Only elements eligible in *both* grant programs are counted as the match.
 - c. Each grant is evaluated independently and on its own merits, as if the match were coming from elsewhere.
 - d. The sponsor satisfies the requirement in #4 below.
3. WWRP funds will not exceed 50% of a project's total cost.
4. *Except for Native American tribes*, at least 10% of the total project cost must be provided in the form of a non-state, non-federal contribution.
5. *Not allowed as a match.*
 - a. Existing sponsor assets such as real property and/or developments.
 - b. Costs that are double counted (that is, a cost incurred by a sponsor in a project that has been reimbursed by IAC shall not be used as a donation on another IAC project).
6. IAC will not reimburse more than the sponsor's "out-of-pocket" costs.

State Agencies. There is no state agency matching share requirement. However, all applicants are encouraged to contribute matching shares and reduce government costs to the greatest extent possible. This is typically reflected in the project evaluation criteria where preference points are sometimes given for non-governmental contributions.

Fund Limits

There are no minimum or maximum request levels in the following Habitat Conservation Account categories: *critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat*. To more widely distribute funds available in the *state lands restoration and enhancement* category and the *Riparian Protection Account*, the fund limits are as follows:

⁶ "Force account" means to use the applicant agency's/organization's employees as opposed to a contractor's staff, volunteers, or others.

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement

- The minimum WWRP share is \$25,000 per project.
- The maximum WWRP share is \$500,000 per multi-site project.
- The maximum WWRP share is \$1,000,000 per single site project.

Riparian Protection Account

- The minimum WWRP share is \$25,000 per project.
- The maximum WWRP share is \$1,000,000 per project.

Cost increases are not allowed. This means the grant amount will not be increased once the project has been evaluated. Project cost overruns become the responsibility of the sponsor.

Administration, Architecture, Engineering

Direct administrative costs for acquisition of real property are limited to no more than five percent of the total acquisition cost.

Architecture and Engineering costs for development and/or restoration projects are limited to twenty percent of the total development and/or restoration project cost.

For *riparian protection* category projects only – a site stewardship plan is an eligible cost activity as part of an acquisition or combination project's administrative or architecture and engineering costs. The maximum allowable cost for development of the site stewardship plan is one percent of the total project cost or \$10,000 whichever is less.

Additional information about eligibility and reimbursement ceilings for these elements is contained in IAC policy Manuals 3, *Acquiring Land* (administration costs) and 4, *Development Projects: Policies*, (A&E).

Phased Projects

IAC recommends that agencies consider the potential program difficulties that high dollar projects usually create and, for this reason, to discuss phasing/staging with IAC staff. Staged projects are subject to the following parameters:

- Approval of any single stage is limited to that stage. No approval or endorsement is given or implied toward future stages.
- Each stage must stand on its own merits as a viable project.
- Each stage must be submitted as a separate application.
- Progress and sponsor performance on other grants may be considered by IAC when making decisions on current project proposals.

**Availability of
Matching Share**

Applicants must have matching funds available for expenditure prior to IAC granting funding approval. Match deadlines are listed in the "Project Selection Timeline" (page 19).

When one IAC grant is used to match another, the “certification of match” will be tentative, conditioned on receipt of the other grant or on the sponsor providing the match from other resources. The applicant will have a maximum of six months from the time of the first grant award to meet the match requirements of that grant. To prevent a backlog of unspent grant funds, the applicant must expedite completion of the project. The IAC required completion date would apply to the earlier of the two grants.

For those projects requiring ballot issues to secure the required local matching share, applicants are advised to plan accordingly. Projects without proof of matching funds availability may be declared ineligible and/or passed over for other projects with the local match in place. Such decisions are based on IAC's confidence in the applicant's ability to have the match in place when required.

Multi-Site Acquisition Strategy

Typically, applicants submitting habitat or riparian acquisition projects identify the specific parcel(s) of land they wish to purchase. Occasionally, however, an applicant will target an area that includes a larger number of parcels with the stated intention of acquiring only a portion of them. The Multi-Site Acquisition Strategy is designed to give clarity to elected officials, the public, WWRP evaluation teams, and IAC's board on what properties will be acquired, while maintaining flexibility for agencies to acquire the highest priority habitat lands.

- ▶ Grant applicants should identify all parcels targeted for possible acquisition. If this is not feasible, would create a hardship for targeted landowners, or would jeopardize potential acquisitions, applicants may instead identify a geographic envelope containing all parcels to be considered.
- ▶ Proposed parcels should be contiguous with one another or contiguous with property currently protected through public or nonprofit ownership. Parcels may be non-contiguous if applicants can demonstrate that siting the project anywhere within a geographic envelope will be effective in achieving the goals of the project.
- ▶ IAC staff may request that projects targeting acquisitions in more than one geographic envelope or containing non-contiguous parcels be submitted as separate grant applications. Staff shall consider the distance between geographic envelopes or non-contiguous parcels, political jurisdictions involved, similarity of ecological features, and difficulty in evaluation in making their determination.
- ▶ Applicants must provide an acquisition strategy in their application. The strategy should show how the agency will approach selecting parcels to pursue and what will be done if negotiations are not successful. The acquisition strategy should be justified based on factors including ecological significance, threat, access, land management issues, real estate issues, degree of completion of the site, location of parcels previously acquired, and landowners.
- ▶ During the evaluation of the grant proposal, evaluators may

recommend that the IAC place conditions on a project to ensure there is not a significant scope change resulting from acquiring parcels with lower conservation values.

- ▶ If the sponsor anticipates that the project may have opposition from the community or local elected officials, the sponsor should work with concerned parties to resolve concerns as soon as possible.

**Mult-Site
Restoration or
Enhancement**

These conditions apply to the eligibility of restoration or enhancement projects that include more than a single location.

- ▶ All elements must be for similar habitat improvements (i.e., wetland restoration, shrub steppe enhancement, etc.); no combinations of significantly different habitats.
- ▶ All elements must be in no more than two adjacent counties and/or within the same natural area or wildlife area.
- ▶ Funding for each site may total no more than \$250,000.
- ▶ The maximum WWRP request is \$500,000.
- ▶ No more than five sites may be included in a single project.
- ▶ This multi-site policy applies to the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category only.

**Environmental
Benefits**

Grant applicants must provide a written statement on the environmental benefits of the proposed project. This statement will be provided to evaluators for consideration during their review of project applications.

RCW 79A.15.065

**Eligible Project
Activities**

Acquisition. Includes the purchase of perpetual interest in real property or non-perpetual interests such as leases and conservation easements. Acquisition of non-perpetual interests must be for at least 50 years and may not be revocable at will.

The Riparian Protection category provides funds for acquisition of lease extensions under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which must be for a minimum of 25 years.

Acquisition of riparian habitat along rivers, streams and other flowing waters should comply with recommendations established in *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats: Riparian* produced by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The document can be accessed online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ripxsum.htm>.

Any lands that have been acquired with WWRP-Habitat Conservation Account grants by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (RCW 77.12.203) or the Department of Natural Resources (RCW 79.70.130 and 79.71.130), are subject to an amount in lieu of real property taxes and an additional amount for control of noxious weeds.

Incidental costs related to acquisition are eligible. Additional rules for land acquisition may be found in IAC Manual 3, *Acquiring Land*.

Development. Complete guidelines for development projects are found in IAC Manual 4, *Development Projects: Policies*. Eligible project elements include:

- Benches, tables
- Habitat creation, enhancement
- Interpretive kiosks/signing
- Parking
- Paths
- Rest rooms
- Roadways
- Viewing shelters

Restoration and Enhancement. Guidelines for restoration and enhancement projects are found in IAC Manual 4, *Development Projects: Policies* and the *Salmon Recovery Funding Board Manual 18*. Eligible project elements include:

- Animal watering stations
- Ecological restoration
- Estuary and shoreline restoration
- Fencing, gates, and signs
- Instream habitat such as bank stabilization, channel reconfiguration, and woody debris placement
- Instream passage improvements
- Habitat enhancement such as native plantings and invasive plant removal
- Removal of structures like bulkheads, dikes, levees, tide gates, and impervious surfaces
- Site augmentation to establish restoration elements
- Transplanting and re-vegetation
- Upland erosion control

Restoration projects should follow the Washington State Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program for road culverts, stream restoration and stream bank protection. The guidelines can be found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/>.

Mitigation Banking. Projects involving mitigation banking activities are eligible for funding in the WWRP Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts. A mitigation bank means a site or sites where critical habitat or urban wildlife habitat is restored, created, enhanced, or in exceptional circumstances, preserved expressly for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation in advance of authorized project impacts to similar resources. WWRP mitigation banking funds may not be used to supplant an obligation of a state or local agency to provide mitigation.

A pilot mitigation banking project will be submitted for funding in the 2007-2009 biennium. Guidelines for applicants planning to submit mitigation banking projects will be developed for future WWRP grant cycles.

Site Stewardship Plan. Development of a site stewardship plan is an eligible cost activity for *riparian protection* category projects. An outline for the stewardship plan must be submitted with the grant application and at a minimum contain the following elements:

- Long-term stewardship goals and objectives
- Monitoring goals and objectives
- Restoration goals and objectives (if applicable)
- Short-term land management goals and objectives
- Description of the site or project area, to include the following:
 - USGS quad map and county assessor's parcel map
 - Map showing all man-made and natural features
 - Narrative description of the property
 - Photographs taken at permanent photo points
 - Further guidance provided in Appendix F of Manual 3, *Acquiring Land: Policies*.
 - A detailed stewardship plan implementation budget that also identifies the source of funding.

Ineligible Project Activities

Several sources are used to determine project eligibility; including Chapter 79A.15 RCW and the category information on page 5 of this manual. The following WWRP project elements are ineligible for funding consideration:

- Animal species introduction or propagation, other than biological controls for invasive species, etc.
- Concessionaire buildings.
- Cost not directly related to implementing the project such as indirect and overhead charges.
- Crop plantings.
- Environmental cleanup of illegal activities (i.e., removal of derelict vessels, trash (dumping), methamphetamine labs, etc.).
- Fish or wildlife production facilities such as fish hatcheries for the production of sport fish populations.
- Indoor facilities such as community centers and environmental education or learning centers.
- Offices, shops, residences, meeting and storage rooms.
- Properties acquired via a condemnation action of any kind. On multi-parcel acquisitions sponsors may acquire those parcels that cannot be purchased from a willing buyer/willing seller via condemnation using only non-WWRP funds. Complete documentation of parcels acquired by WWRP funding versus those acquired entirely by sponsor funds under condemnation must be maintained and available. The value of parcels acquired via condemnation may not be used as part of the required local agency matching share.
- Specific projects identified as mitigation as part of a habitat conservation plan approved by the federal government for incidental take of endangered or threatened species or other projects identified

for habitat mitigation purposes.

- ▶ Routine operation and maintenance costs.

Universal-Barrier Free Access

Sponsors must ensure that all facilities assisted with IAC funds meet current barrier-free standards. Several laws and codes provide construction designs that meet these standards (Americans With Disabilities Act, State Building Code: Accessibility, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, etc.). Program facilities not covered by these laws and codes are not exempt from barrier-free access. Sponsors must to the highest degree reasonable, make project elements accessible. To this end, applicants should refer to IAC's "Universal, Barrier-Free Access" policy in Manual 4, *Development Projects: Policies*.

Plans, project applications, cost estimates, and construction drawings must reflect compliance with facility access and signing requirements.

PROJECT EVALUATION Evaluation Criteria

Project evaluation is based on a set of questions adopted by IAC's board. The questions are created from statutory and other criteria developed through a public process. The evaluation questions for each category may be found in Appendices C through G.

There are two sections to the evaluation criteria: team-scored questions and IAC-staff scored questions. In the first section, the evaluation team (see below) uses subjective criteria to score each project. Scores are based on each applicant's response to evaluation questions, graphics submitted or presented during the evaluation meeting, and summary application material made available in advance of the project's evaluation.

In the second section, IAC's staff scores the projects using objective measures, such as matching share, population, and conformance to growth management planning. Scores are based on material submitted by applicants and information obtained from the state Office of Financial Management and the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development.

Scores from sections one and two are combined for a project's total evaluation score.

EVALUATION PROCESS

A written evaluation process is used for the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category. Applicants submit materials for review and include written responses to the evaluation criteria for assessment of projects and development of a ranked list. Complete details for preparing the evaluation materials are included in Manual 5, *IAC Application Forms & Procedures*.

Evaluation of all other HCA and RPA category projects involve an in-person oral and graphic presentation to the evaluation team by the applicant.

While IAC's evaluation meetings are open to anyone, they are not public hearings. As such, only applicant employees or designated spokespersons may address the evaluation team. At these meetings, an IAC staff member serves as nonvoting moderator. Scoring is by secret ballot. Scoring instructions are contained in the individual evaluation instruments. Following the meeting, *all* scores are tabulated and compiled to establish a ranked list of projects. The ranked list is the basis for funding recommendations to the IAC board.

Evaluation Team

When recruiting individuals to evaluate projects, IAC staff shall collaborate with other individuals and organizations to ensure the appointment of respected experts in their field.

For all categories, IAC staff shall attempt to select evaluators that possess a statewide perspective and are recognized for their experience and knowledge related to habitat conservation and riparian protection.

Habitat Conservation Account

Each HCA category evaluation team shall have at least eight members including at least one evaluator from the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Evaluation team member composition may differ between categories depending on the experience, knowledge, and expertise of the individuals. Evaluators for each category shall have appropriate experience and expertise in at least one of the following disciplines:

- Academia
- Acquisition of habitat properties and conservation easements
- Biology (conservation and/or non-game wildlife)
- Botany
- Ecology (landscape, riparian, plant, and/or wetlands)
- Fish and Wildlife Management
- Geology
- Natural Resource Management
- Watershed Landscape Management and Planning
- Zoology

Depending on availability, preference for the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category is for citizen representatives from organizations such as land trusts and wildlife and recreation groups with expertise in applicable disciplines identified for HCA and RPA categories. Teams may also include federal, state, and local governments and Native American tribes.

Riparian Protection Account

The RPA evaluation team has at least eight members. Team members may include representatives from state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, recreational interests, academics, and the public at large. In addition to the qualifications listed under the Habitat Conservation Account, evaluation team members may have expertise and experience in

the following areas:

- Agriculture
- Engineering
- Forestry
- Geomorphology
- Hydrology
- Lakes
- Land Use Management
- Marine or freshwater shorelines
- Urban Planning
- Wetlands, streams, and river systems

**Public Hearings
Board**

The IAC is not a public hearings board before which land use issues are heard. To the extent possible, all project proposals should demonstrate adequate public notification and review and have the support of the public body applying for the grant.

**Review of
Proposed Project**

A state or local agency that is applying for funds for acquisition of property shall review its proposed project application with the county or city with jurisdiction over the project area prior to submitting a grant application to IAC. The applicant must provide documentation that this review has occurred. The appropriate county or city legislative authority may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the IAC board identifying the authority's position with regard to the acquisition project. The Board shall make the letters received available to the Governor and the legislature when the prioritized WWRP project list is submitted.

RCW 79A.15.110

**PROJECT
IMPLEMENTATION**

**Combination
Projects**

Combination projects involve land acquisition and facility development and/or restoration. To help ensure timely completion of projects without tying up grant funds for extended periods, applicants must secure the property by one of the methods listed below. This action must be complete at least one month before IAC considers approval of funding such projects.

1. Acquisition under Waiver of Retroactivity policies outlined in *Manual 3, Acquiring Land: Policies*.
2. Have property in escrow pending IAC grant approval.
3. Obtain an option on the property that extends past the IAC funding meeting. *Execution of the option must occur within 90 days after the IAC funding meeting.*
4. Provide draft copies of all leases or easements to the IAC for review. Execution of the leases or easements must occur within 90 days after the funding meeting.

Post Approval Requirements

After approval of funding, and prior to executing a Project Agreement, IAC's Director may request additional information. Applicants have 60 days, from the date the IAC board approves funding, to submit any additional information requested. To expedite this process, IAC staff will request additional items *before* the IAC funding meeting.

After all post-approval materials have been supplied, the Agreement will be sent to the applicant, who is required to execute and return the signed agreement within 60 days.⁷ The applicant becomes the project sponsor on execution of the Agreement. Each Agreement will be written and monitored for compliance by IAC staff (Manual 7, *Funded Projects: Policies & the Project Agreement*).

Progress Policy

By IAC policy, sponsors must complete funded projects promptly. To help ensure reasonable but timely project completion, accountability, and the proper use of funds, applicants will:

- ▶ Only submit projects that can be completed within four years of the grant award.
- ▶ Provide assurances that the project can be completed within a reasonable time frame, which does not exceed the board approved implementation period.
- ▶ Provide written certification of matching fund availability before the IAC funding meeting.
- ▶ Submit the post approval materials required within 60 days of funding approval.
- ▶ Develop milestones and a timeline for project implementation that does not exceed four years.
- ▶ Begin project implementation quickly and aggressively so as to show measurable progress towards meeting project milestones. IAC may terminate projects that do not meet critical milestones established in the Agreement.

By June 1st of each year, IAC staff will review the status of WWRP projects that remain incomplete three or more years from the date of funding approval. The sponsors of these projects will be asked to provide assurances that their projects will be completed and funds expended within the agreement period. Assurances may include:

- ▶ Purchase and sale agreements
- ▶ Proof of permitting approvals
- ▶ Construction contracts
- ▶ Other significant milestones listed in the grant agreement.

If satisfactory assurances are not provided, the agreement period will lapse or the Director will terminate the project. Additional information about the progress policy is found in Manual 7, *Funded Projects: Policies & the Project Agreement*.

⁷ IAC Board policy adopted April 2, 2004. Also see WAC 286-13-040(4).

Project Completion When a project is completed, sponsors have 90 days to submit the final bill and supporting documents needed to close the project. If the bill and documentation are not submitted within six months of project completion, IAC's board may terminate the project without payment.

Conversions A "conversion" occurs when interests in real property and facilities acquired, developed, renovated, enhanced or restored with WWRP funds are converted to uses other than those for which the funds were originally approved and described in the project agreement with IAC.

Habitat land and facilities purchased with WWRP funds shall not be converted to uses other than those for which the funds were originally approved without prior approval by IAC's board. RCW 79A.15.030

IAC may only approve a conversion under conditions that assure the substitution or replacement of interest in real property or facilities that are of at least equal fair market value and public benefit at the time of replacement. Real property interests and facilities must also be of as nearly equivalent or greater usefulness and location, if physically and/or biologically feasible; satisfy needs in current plans; and be eligible to receive a grant in the WWRP account and category from which funds were originally allocated, unless otherwise authorized by the Board. Replacement of restoration or enhancement projects must include activities necessary to replicate the ecological benefit intended by the original project.

Excepted are conversions approved by IAC's board which include but are not limited to: conditions brought about by nature, fire, and projects authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) under the National Trails System Act [§ 8(d), 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d)] that shall automatically convert if reactivated for rail purposes under an ICC order. Substitution or replacement with interest in real property, facilities, or moneys, which are of at least equal fair market value at the time of replacement, may be required. WAC 286-27-066

And last, a conversion may also be declared in instances where a project, due to a management activity, no longer meets or conforms to the intent of the category in which it was funded. Here are two examples from the critical habitat and natural area categories:

- ▶ Property that, due to a management activity, no longer supports or contains the species for which it was acquired. Replacement would be either new property to meet the original intent, or, if that is not physically or biologically possible, new property to accomplish the same goal with other species.
- ▶ Development of habitat/natural area projects beyond minimal levels required to preserve, enhance or interpret projects of this type. Replacement would be the same as noted above.

**PROJECT
SELECTION
TIMELINE**

While the steps in the funding process remain consistent each grant cycle, IAC's Director may adjust actual dates. For this reason, and since other important dates exist, applicants are encouraged to obtain the full WWRP program schedule, revised prior to each grant cycle.

May, Even Years

IAC Accepts Project Applications. Applications are due for the funding cycle in early May of each even-numbered year. Applications received after the deadline will be returned unless IAC's Director has approved a late submission. Each application is assigned to an IAC grants manager.

May-July, Even Years

Project Reviews. The assigned IAC grants manager will review the application and provide written feedback to the applicant acknowledging receipt and seeking any additional or clarifying information needed. Within a few weeks applicants will be invited to a project review meeting. At this meeting volunteers and IAC staff will review projects to ensure they are eligible, identify any issues of concern, and provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. Applicants then have an opportunity to consult with staff to determine what, if any, changes they want to make to improve the project. All changes must be completed by the scheduled technical completion deadline.

Note: A written review process is used for the *state lands restoration and enhancement* category.

July, Even Years

IAC Submits Biennial Budget Request. In July of each even-numbered year, IAC's board sets WWRP's budget request level for the next biennium.

August, Even Years

Evaluations. Evaluation teams evaluate projects, scores are tabulated, and projects are ranked based upon the evaluation scores.

September, Even Years

IAC Approves the Project List. In an open public meeting, IAC's board considers the recommendations of the evaluation teams, written public comments submitted prior to the meeting, and public testimony at the meeting. IAC's board then approves the list of projects for submittal to the Governor by November 1. When considering a list of projects for recommendation, IAC will use both anticipated available funding and project evaluation results as a basis for determining the length of the list to be submitted. This list will normally exceed anticipated funding. *Applicants are cautioned that IAC board recommendation of project lists to the Governor is not the same as funding approval.*

October-December, Even Years

Governor Approves Projects. Typically, the Governor's budget includes funding for many but not all of the projects recommended. The Governor may remove project(s) from the list recommended by IAC's board, but may not re-rank or add projects to the list.

January-May, Odd Years

Legislature Approves Projects. The Governor submits this list in the Capital Budget Request to the legislature for review and approval. The legislature may remove project(s) from the list submitted by the Governor, but may not re-rank or add projects to the list.

May-July, Odd Years

Matching Funds Availability. Local agencies, Native American tribes and lead entities must provide proof of the availability of matching funds by the match certification deadline.

IAC Approves Project Funding. IAC meets to make final funding decisions for WWRP projects that were recommended to the Governor the previous November and subsequently approved by the legislature. Projects not funded at this meeting may be subsequently funded with unused dollars from higher ranked projects that are completed under budget or submitted for a later funding cycle.

Post Approval. After the IAC approves the final grant awards, applicants submit post approval materials, which are due within 60 days of funding approval. IAC staff will prepare and issue the project agreement between the state and the applicant. Once the agreement is signed the applicant, now referred to as the project sponsor, may begin implementation of the funded project.



APPENDIX A

Chapter 79A.15 RCW

ACQUISITION OF HABITAT CONSERVATION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION LANDS**RCW 79A.15.005, Findings.**

The legislature finds:

- (1) That Washington possesses an abundance of natural wealth in the form of forests, mountains, wildlife, waters, and other natural resources, all of which help to provide an unparalleled diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities and a quality of life unmatched in this nation;
- (2) That as the state's population grows, the demand on these resources is growing too, placing greater stress on today's already overcrowded public recreational lands and facilities, and resulting in a significant loss of wildlife habitat and lands of unique natural value;
- (3) That public acquisition and development programs have not kept pace with the state's expanding population;
- (4) That private investment and employment opportunities in general and the tourist industry in particular are dependent upon the continued availability of recreational opportunities and our state's unique natural environment;
- (5) That if current trends continue, some wildlife species and rare ecosystems will be lost in the state forever and public recreational lands will not be adequate to meet public demands;
- (6) That there is accordingly a need for the people of the state to reserve certain areas of the state, in rural as well as urban settings, for the benefit of present and future generations.

It is therefore the policy of the state to acquire as soon as possible the most significant lands for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation purposes before they are converted to other uses, and to develop existing public recreational land and facilities to meet the needs of present and future generations.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.98A.005.]

RCW 79A.15.010, Definitions. (Effective until July 1, 2007.)

The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

- (1) "Acquisition" means the purchase on a willing seller basis of fee or less than fee interests in real property. These interests include, but are not limited to, options, rights of first refusal, conservation easements, leases, and mineral rights.
- (2) "Committee" means the interagency committee for outdoor recreation.
- (3) "Critical habitat" means lands important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including, but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk, and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat, and habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.
- (4) "Local agencies" means a city, county, town, tribe, special purpose district, port district, or other political subdivision of the state providing services to less than the entire state.
- (5) "Natural areas" means areas that have, to a significant degree, retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value.
- (6) "Special needs populations" means physically restricted people or people of limited means.
- (7) "Trails" means public ways constructed for and open to pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof, other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county road for exclusive use of pedestrians.
- (8) "Urban wildlife habitat" means lands that provide habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area.
- (9) "Water access" means boat or foot access to marine waters, lakes, rivers, or streams.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.98A.010.]

RCW 79A.15.010, Definitions. (Effective July 1, 2007.)

The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Acquisition" means the purchase on a willing seller basis of fee or less than fee interests in real property. These interests include, but are not limited to, options, rights of first refusal, conservation easements, leases, and mineral rights.

(2) "Committee" means the interagency committee for outdoor recreation.

(3) "Critical habitat" means lands important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including, but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk, and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat, and habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.

(4) "Farmlands" means any land defined as "farm and agricultural land" in RCW 84.34.020(2).

(5) "Local agencies" means a city, county, town, federally recognized Indian tribe, special purpose district, port district, or other political subdivision of the state providing services to less than the entire state.

(6) "Natural areas" means areas that have, to a significant degree, retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value.

(7) "Riparian habitat" means land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species. Riparian habitat includes, but is not limited to, shorelines and near-shore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers.

(8) "Special needs populations" means physically restricted people or people of limited means.

(9) "State agencies" means the state parks and recreation commission, the department of natural resources, the department of general

administration, and the department of fish and wildlife.

(10) "Trails" means public ways constructed for and open to pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof, other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county road for exclusive use of pedestrians.

(11) "Urban wildlife habitat" means lands that provide habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area.

(12) "Water access" means boat or foot access to marine waters, lakes, rivers, or streams.

[2005 c 303 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.98A.010.]

NOTES: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:
"Sections 1 through 14 of this act take effect July 1, 2007." [2005 c 303 § 17.]

RCW 79A.15.020, Habitat conservation account.

The habitat conservation account is established in the state treasury. The committee shall administer the account in accordance with chapter 79A.25 RCW and this chapter, and shall hold it separate and apart from all other money, funds, and accounts of the committee.

[2000 c 11 § 65; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.98A.020.]

RCW 79A.15.030, Allocation and use of moneys -- Grants. (Effective until July 1, 2007.)

(1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter shall be divided equally between the habitat conservation and outdoor recreation accounts and shall be used exclusively for the purposes specified in this chapter.

(2) Moneys deposited in these accounts shall be invested as authorized for other state funds, and any earnings on them shall be credited to the respective account.

(3) All moneys deposited in the habitat conservation and outdoor recreation accounts shall be allocated under RCW 79A.15.040 and 79A.15.050 as grants to state or local agencies for acquisition, development, and renovation within

the jurisdiction of those agencies, subject to legislative appropriation. The committee may use or permit the use of any funds appropriated for this chapter as matching funds where federal, local, or other funds are made available for projects within the purposes of this chapter.

(4) Projects receiving grants under this chapter that are developed or otherwise accessible for public recreational uses shall be available to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

(5) The committee may make grants to an eligible project from both the habitat conservation and outdoor recreation accounts and any one or more of the applicable categories under such accounts described in RCW 79A.15.040 and 79A.15.050.

[2000 c 11 § 66; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.98A.030.]

Outdoor recreation account: Chapter 79A.25 RCW.

RCW 79A.15.030, Allocation and use of moneys -- Grants. (Effective July 1, 2007.)

(1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter shall be divided as follows:

(a) Appropriations for a biennium of forty million dollars or less must be allocated equally between the habitat conservation account and the outdoor recreation account.

(b) If appropriations for a biennium total more than forty million dollars, the money must be allocated as follows: (i) Twenty million dollars to the habitat conservation account and twenty million dollars to the outdoor recreation account; (ii) any amount over forty million dollars up to fifty million dollars shall be allocated as follows: (A) Ten percent to the habitat conservation account; (B) ten percent to the outdoor recreation account; (C) forty percent to the riparian protection account; and (D) forty percent to the farmlands preservation account; and (iii) any amounts over fifty million dollars must be allocated as follows: (A) Thirty percent to the habitat conservation account; (B) thirty percent to the outdoor recreation account; (C) thirty percent to the riparian protection account; and (D) ten percent to the farmlands preservation account.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in chapter 303, Laws of 2005, moneys deposited in these accounts shall be invested as authorized for other state funds, and any earnings on them shall be credited to the respective account.

(3) All moneys deposited in the habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, riparian protection, and farmlands preservation accounts shall be allocated as provided under RCW 79A.15.040, 79A.15.050, 79A.15.120, and 79A.15.130 as grants to state or local agencies for acquisition, development, and renovation within the jurisdiction of those agencies, subject to legislative appropriation. The committee may use or permit the use of any funds appropriated for this chapter as matching funds where federal, local, or other funds are made available for projects within the purposes of this chapter. Moneys appropriated to these accounts that are not obligated to a specific project may be used to fund projects from lists of alternate projects from the same account in biennia succeeding the biennium in which the moneys were originally appropriated.

(4) Projects receiving grants under this chapter that are developed or otherwise accessible for public recreational uses shall be available to the public.

(5) The committee may make grants to an eligible project from the habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, riparian protection, and farmlands preservation accounts and any one or more of the applicable categories under such accounts described in RCW 79A.15.040, 79A.15.050, 79A.15.120, and 79A.15.130.

(6) The committee may accept private donations to the habitat conservation account, the outdoor recreation account, the riparian protection account, and the farmlands preservation account for the purposes specified in this chapter.

(7) The committee may apply up to three percent of the funds appropriated for this chapter for the administration of the programs and purposes specified in this chapter.

(8) Habitat and recreation land and facilities acquired or developed with moneys appropriated for this chapter may not, without prior approval of the committee, be converted to a use other than that for which funds were originally approved. The committee shall adopt rules and procedures governing the approval of such a conversion.

[2005 c 303 § 2; 2000 c 11 § 66; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.98A.030.]

Notes: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14: See note following RCW [79A.15.010](#).

Outdoor recreation account: Chapter 79A.25 RCW.

RCW 79A.15.040, Habitat conservation account -- Distribution and use of moneys. (Effective until July 1, 2007.)

(1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the habitat conservation account shall be distributed in the following way:

- (a) Not less than thirty-five percent for the acquisition and development of critical habitat;
 - (b) Not less than twenty percent for the acquisition and development of natural areas;
 - (c) Not less than fifteen percent for the acquisition and development of urban wildlife habitat; and
 - (d) The remaining amount shall be considered unallocated and shall be used by the committee to fund high priority acquisition and development needs for critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat. During the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2001, the remaining amount reappropriated from the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 1999, may be allocated for matching grants for riparian zone habitat protection projects that implement watershed plans under the program established in section 329(6), chapter 235, Laws of 1997.
- (2) In distributing these funds, the committee retains discretion to meet the most pressing needs for critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat, and is not required to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any one biennium.
- (3) Only state agencies may apply for acquisition and development funds for critical habitat and natural areas projects under subsection (1)(a), (b), and (d) of this section.
- (4) State and local agencies may apply for acquisition and development funds for urban wildlife habitat projects under subsection (1)(c) and (d) of this section.

[1999 c 379 § 917; 1997 c 235 § 718; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.98A.040.]

NOTES: Effective date -- 1999 c 379: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 18, 1999]." [1999 c 379 § 949.]

Severability -- 1997 c 235: "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1997 c 235 § 901.]

Effective date -- 1997 c 235: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 26, 1997]." [1997 c 235 § 902.]

RCW 79A.15.040, Habitat conservation account -- Distribution and use of moneys. (Effective July 1, 2007.)

(1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the habitat conservation account shall be distributed in the following way:

- (a) Not less than forty percent through June 30, 2011, at which time the amount shall become forty-five percent, for the acquisition and development of critical habitat;
- (b) Not less than thirty percent for the acquisition and development of natural areas;
- (c) Not less than twenty percent for the acquisition and development of urban wildlife habitat; and
- (d) Not less than ten percent through June 30, 2011, at which time the amount shall become five percent, shall be used by the committee to fund restoration and enhancement projects on state lands. Only the department of natural resources and the department of fish and wildlife may apply for these funds to be used on existing habitat and natural area lands. (2) (a) In distributing these funds, the committee retains discretion to meet the most pressing needs for critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat, and is not required to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any one biennium.

(b) If not enough project applications are submitted in a category within the habitat conservation account to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any biennium, the committee retains discretion to distribute any remaining funds to the other categories within the account.

(3) Only state agencies may apply for acquisition and development funds for natural areas projects under subsection (1) (b) of this section.

(4) State and local agencies may apply for acquisition and development funds for critical habitat and urban wildlife habitat projects under subsection (1)(a) and (c) of this section.

(5)(a) Any lands that have been acquired with grants under this section by the department of fish and wildlife are subject to an amount in lieu of real property taxes and an additional amount for control of noxious weeds as determined by RCW 77.12.203.

(b) Any lands that have been acquired with grants under this section by the department of natural resources are subject to payments in the amounts required under the provisions of RCW 79.70.130 and 79.71.130.

[2005 c 303 § 3; 1999 c 379 § 917; 1997 c 235 § 718; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.98A.040.]

NOTES: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:
See note following RCW [79A.15.010](#).

Effective date -- 1999 c 379: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 18, 1999]." [1999 c 379 § 949.]

Severability -- 1997 c 235: "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1997 c 235 § 901.]

Effective date -- 1997 c 235: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public

institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 26, 1997]." [1997 c 235 § 902.]

RCW 79A.15.050, Outdoor recreation account -- Distribution and use of moneys. (Effective until July 1, 2007.)

(1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the outdoor recreation account shall be distributed in the following way:

(a) Not less than twenty-five percent to the state parks and recreation commission for the acquisition and development of state parks, with at least seventy-five percent of this money for acquisition costs. However, between July 27, 2003 and June 30, 2009, at least fifty percent of this money for the acquisition and development of state parks must be for acquisition costs;

(b) Not less than twenty-five percent for the acquisition, development, and renovation of local parks, with at least fifty percent of this money for acquisition costs;

(c) Not less than fifteen percent for the acquisition and development of trails;

(d) Not less than ten percent for the acquisition and development of water access sites, with at least seventy-five percent of this money for acquisition costs; and

(e) The remaining amount shall be considered unallocated and shall be distributed by the committee to state and local agencies to fund high priority acquisition and development needs for parks, trails, and water access sites.

(2) In distributing these funds, the committee retains discretion to meet the most pressing needs for state and local parks, trails, and water access sites, and is not required to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any one biennium.

(3) Only local agencies may apply for acquisition, development, or renovation funds for local parks under subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(4) State and local agencies may apply for funds for trails under subsection (1)(c) of this section.

(5) State and local agencies may apply for funds for water access sites under subsection (1)(d) of this section.

[2003 c 184 § 1; 1999 c 379 § 941; 1999 c 379 § 920; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 6. Formerly RCW 43.98A.050.]

NOTES: Effective date -- 1999 c 379: See note following RCW 79A.15.040.

RCW 79A.15.050, Outdoor recreation account -- Distribution and use of moneys. (Effective July 1, 2007.)

(1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the outdoor recreation account shall be distributed in the following way:

(a) Not less than thirty percent to the state parks and recreation commission for the acquisition and development of state parks, with at least fifty percent of the money for acquisition costs.

(b) Not less than thirty percent for the acquisition, development, and renovation of local parks, with at least fifty percent of this money for acquisition costs;

(c) Not less than twenty percent for the acquisition, renovation, or development of trails;

(d) Not less than fifteen percent for the acquisition, renovation, or development of water access sites, with at least seventy-five percent of this money for acquisition costs; and

(e) Not less than five percent for development and renovation projects on state recreation lands. Only the department of natural resources and the department of fish and wildlife may apply for these funds to be used on their existing recreation lands.

(2)(a) In distributing these funds, the committee retains discretion to meet the most pressing needs for state and local parks, trails, and water access sites, and is not required to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any one biennium.

(b) If not enough project applications are submitted in a category within the outdoor recreation account to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any biennium, the committee retains discretion to distribute any remaining funds to the other categories within the account.

(3) Only local agencies may apply for acquisition, development, or renovation funds for local parks under subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(4) Only state and local agencies may apply for funds for trails under subsection (1)(c) of this section.

(5) Only state and local agencies may apply for funds for water access sites under subsection (1)(d) of this section.

[2005 c 303 § 4; 2003 c 184 § 1; 1999 c 379 § 941; 1999 c 379 § 920; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 6. Formerly RCW 43.98A.050.]

NOTES: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14: See note following RCW [79A.15.010](#).

Effective date -- 1999 c 379: See note following RCW 79A.15.040.

RCW 79A.15.060, Habitat conservation account -- Acquisition policies and priorities. (Effective until July 1, 2007.)

(1) The committee may adopt rules establishing acquisition policies and priorities for distributions from the habitat conservation account.

(2) Moneys appropriated for this chapter may not be used by the committee to fund additional staff positions or other overhead expenses, or by a state, regional, or local agency to fund operation and maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter, except that the committee may use moneys appropriated for this chapter for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2001, for the administrative costs of implementing the pilot watershed plan implementation program established in section 329(6), chapter 235, Laws of 1997, and developing an inventory of publicly owned lands established in section 329(7), chapter 235, Laws of 1997.

(3) Moneys appropriated for this chapter may be used for costs incidental to acquisition, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, the committee may not approve a local project where the local agency share is less than the amount to be awarded from the habitat conservation account.

(5) During the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2001, the committee may approve a riparian zone habitat protection project established in section 329(6), chapter 235, Laws of 1997, where the local agency share is less than the amount to be awarded from the habitat conservation account.

(6) In determining acquisition priorities with respect to the habitat conservation account, the committee shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

(a) For critical habitat and natural areas proposals:

- (i) Community support;
 - (ii) Immediacy of threat to the site;
 - (iii) Uniqueness of the site;
 - (iv) Diversity of species using the site;
 - (v) Quality of the habitat;
 - (vi) Long-term viability of the site;
 - (vii) Presence of endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;
 - (viii) Enhancement of existing public property;
 - (ix) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional or state-wide recreational or resource plan; and
 - (x) Educational and scientific value of the site.
- (b) For urban wildlife habitat proposals, in addition to the criteria of (a) of this subsection:
- (i) Population of, and distance from, the nearest urban area;
 - (ii) Proximity to other wildlife habitat;
 - (iii) Potential for public use; and
 - (iv) Potential for use by special needs populations.

(7) Before October 1st of each even-numbered year, the committee shall recommend to the governor a prioritized list of state agency projects to be funded under *RCW 79A.15.040(1) (a), (b),

and (c). The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the committee and shall submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list shall include, but not be limited to, a description of each project; and shall describe for each project any anticipated restrictions upon recreational activities allowed prior to the project.

(8) Before October 1st of each year, the committee shall recommend to the governor a prioritized list of all local projects to be funded under RCW 79A.15.040(1)(c). The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the committee and shall submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list shall include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular match requirement, and describe for each project any anticipated restrictions upon recreational activities allowed prior to the project.

[2000 c 11 § 67; 1999 c 379 § 918; 1997 c 235 § 719; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.98A.060.]

NOTES: Effective date -- 1999 c 379: See note following RCW 79A.15.040. **Severability -- Effective date--1997 c 235:** See notes following RCW 79A.15.040.

RCW 79A.15.060, Habitat conservation account -- Acquisition policies and priorities. (Effective July 1, 2007.)

(1) The committee may adopt rules establishing acquisition policies and priorities for distributions from the habitat conservation account.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 79A.15.030(7), moneys appropriated for this chapter may not be used by the committee to fund additional staff positions or other overhead expenses, or by a state, regional, or local agency to fund operation and maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter.

(3) Moneys appropriated for this chapter may be used by grant recipients for costs incidental to acquisition, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(4) Moneys appropriated for this section may be used to fund mitigation banking projects involving the restoration, creation, enhancement, or

preservation of critical habitat and urban wildlife habitat, provided that the parties seeking to use the mitigation bank meet the matching requirements of subsection (5) of this section. The moneys from this section may not be used to supplant an obligation of a state or local agency to provide mitigation. For the purposes of this section, a mitigation bank means a site or sites where critical habitat or urban wildlife habitat is restored, created, enhanced, or in exceptional circumstances, preserved expressly for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation in advance of authorized project impacts to similar resources.

(5) The committee may not approve a local project where the local agency share is less than the amount to be awarded from the habitat conservation account.

(6) In determining acquisition priorities with respect to the habitat conservation account, the committee shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

(a) For critical habitat and natural areas proposals:

(i) Community support for the project;

(ii) The project proposal's ongoing stewardship program that includes control of noxious weeds, detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of the funds from which the stewardship program will be funded;

(iii) Recommendations as part of a watershed plan or habitat conservation plan, or a coordinated region-wide prioritization effort, and for projects primarily intended to benefit salmon, limiting factors, or critical pathways analysis;

(iv) Immediacy of threat to the site;

(v) Uniqueness of the site;

(vi) Diversity of species using the site;

(vii) Quality of the habitat;

(viii) Long-term viability of the site;

(ix) Presence of endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;

(x) Enhancement of existing public property;

(xi) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional or state-wide recreational or resource plan, including projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130;

(xii) Educational and scientific value of the site.

(xiii) Integration with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;

(xiv) For critical habitat proposals by local agencies, the statewide significance of the site.

(b) For urban wildlife habitat proposals, in addition to the criteria of (a) of this subsection:

(i) Population of, and distance from, the nearest urban area;

(ii) Proximity to other wildlife habitat;

(iii) Potential for public use; and

(iv) Potential for use by special needs populations.

(7) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the committee shall recommend to the governor a prioritized list of all state agency and local projects to be funded under RCW 79A.15.040(1) (a), (b), and (c). The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the committee and shall submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list shall include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular match requirement, and describe for each project any anticipated restrictions upon recreational activities allowed prior to the project.

[2005 c 303 § 8; 2000 c 11 § 67; 1999 c 379 § 918; 1997 c 235 § 719; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.98A.060.]

NOTES: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14: See note following RCW 79A.15.010. **Effective date -- 1999 c 379:** See note following RCW 79A.15.040. **Severability -- Effective date--1997 c 235:** See notes following RCW 79A.15.040.

RCW 79A.15.065, Grants through habitat conservation account – Statement of environmental benefits – Development of outcome-focused performance measures.

In providing grants through the habitat conservation account, the committee shall require grant applicants to incorporate the environmental benefits of the project into their grant applications, and the committee shall utilize the statement of environmental benefits in the grant application and review process. The committee shall also develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to be used both for management and performance assessment of the grant program. To the extent possible, the committee should coordinate its performance measure system with other natural resource-related agencies as defined in RCW 43.41.270. The committee shall consult with affected interest groups in implementing this section.

[2001 c 227 § 8.]

NOTES: Findings – Intent – 2001 c 227: See note following RCW 43.41.270.

RCW 79A.15.070, Acquisition and development priorities -- Generally. (Effective until July 1, 2007.)

(1) In determining which state parks proposals and local parks proposals to fund, the committee shall use existing policies and priorities.

(2) Moneys appropriated for this chapter may not be used by the committee to fund additional staff or other overhead expenses, or by a state, regional, or local agency to fund operation and maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter, except that the committee may use moneys appropriated for this chapter for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2001, for the administrative costs of implementing the pilot watershed plan implementation program established in section 329(6), chapter 235, Laws of 1997, and developing an inventory of publicly owned lands established in section 329(7), chapter 235, Laws of 1997.

(3) Moneys appropriated for this chapter may be used for costs incidental to acquisition, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(4) The committee may not approve a project of a local agency where the share contributed by the

local agency is less than the amount to be awarded from the outdoor recreation account.

(5) The committee may adopt rules establishing acquisition policies and priorities for the acquisition and development of trails and water access sites to be financed from moneys in the outdoor recreation account.

(6) In determining the acquisition and development priorities, the committee shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

(a) For trails proposals:

(i) Community support;

(ii) Immediacy of threat to the site;

(iii) Linkage between communities;

(iv) Linkage between trails;

(v) Existing or potential usage;

(vi) Consistency with an existing local land use plan or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan;

(vii) Availability of water access or views;

(viii) Enhancement of wildlife habitat; and

(ix) Scenic values of the site.

(b) For water access proposals:

(i) Community support;

(ii) Distance from similar water access opportunities;

(iii) Immediacy of threat to the site;

(iv) Diversity of possible recreational uses; and

(v) Public demand in the area.

(7) Before October 1st of each even-numbered year, the committee shall recommend to the governor a prioritized list of state agency projects to be funded under RCW 79A.15.050(1) (a), (c), and (d). The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the committee and shall

submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list shall include, but not be limited to, a description of each project; and shall describe for each project any anticipated restrictions upon recreational activities allowed prior to the project.

(8) Before October 1st of each year, the committee shall recommend to the governor a prioritized list of all local projects to be funded under RCW 79A.15.050(1) (b), (c), and (d). The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the committee and shall submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list shall include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular match requirement, and describe for each project any anticipated restrictions upon recreational activities allowed prior to the project.

[2000 c 11 § 68; 1999 c 379 § 919; 1997 c 235 § 720; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 8. Formerly RCW 43.98A.070.]

NOTES: Effective date -- 1999 c 379: See note following RCW 79A.15.040. **Severability -- Effective date--1997 c 235:** See notes following RCW 79A.15.040.

RCW 79A.15.070, Acquisition and development priorities -- Generally. (Effective July 1, 2007.)

(1) In determining which state parks proposals and local parks proposals to fund, the committee shall use existing policies and priorities.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 79A.15.030(7), moneys appropriated for this chapter may not be used by the committee to fund staff or other overhead expenses, or by a state, regional, or local agency to fund operation or maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter.

(3) Moneys appropriated for this chapter may be used by grant recipients for costs incidental to acquisition and development, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(4) The committee may not approve a project of a local agency where the share contributed by the local agency is less than the amount to be awarded from the outdoor recreation account.

(5) The committee may adopt rules establishing acquisition policies and priorities for the acquisition and development of trails and water access sites to be financed from moneys in the outdoor recreation account.

(6) In determining the acquisition and development priorities, the committee shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

(a) For trails proposals:

(i) Community support for the project;

(ii) Immediacy of threat to the site;

(iii) Linkage between communities;

(iv) Linkage between trails;

(v) Existing or potential usage;

(vi) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan, including projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130;

(vii) Availability of water access or views;

(viii) Enhancement of wildlife habitat; and

(ix) Scenic values of the site.

(b) For water access proposals:

(i) Community support for the project;

(ii) Distance from similar water access opportunities;

(iii) Immediacy of threat to the site;

(iv) Diversity of possible recreational uses;

(v) Public demand in the area; and

(vi) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan, including projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local

comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130.

(7) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the committee shall recommend to the governor a prioritized list of all state agency and local projects to be funded under RCW 79A.15.050(1) (a), (b), (c), and (d). The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the committee and shall submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list shall include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular match requirement, and describe for each project any anticipated restrictions upon recreational activities allowed prior to the project.

[2005 c 303 § 9; 2000 c 11 § 68; 1999 c 379 § 919; 1997 c 235 § 720; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 8. Formerly RCW 43.98A.070.]

NOTES: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14: See note following RCW [79A.15.010](#). **Effective date -- 1999 c 379:** See note following RCW 79A.15.040. **Severability -- Effective date--1997 c 235:** See notes following RCW 79A.15.040.

RCW 79A.15.080, Recommended project list -- Committee authority to obligate funds -- Legislature's authority. (Effective until July 1, 2007.)

The committee shall not sign contracts or otherwise financially obligate funds from the habitat conservation account or the outdoor recreation account as provided in this chapter before the legislature has appropriated funds for a specific list of projects. The legislature may remove projects from the list recommended by the governor.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 9. Formerly RCW 43.98A.080.]

RCW 79A.15.080, Recommended project list -- Committee authority to obligate funds -- Legislature's authority. (Effective July 1, 2007.)

The committee shall not sign contracts or otherwise financially obligate funds from the habitat conservation account, the outdoor recreation account, the riparian protection account, or the farmlands preservation account as provided in this chapter before the legislature has appropriated funds for a specific list of projects.

The legislature may remove projects from the list recommended by the governor.

[2005 c 303 § 10; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 9. Formerly RCW 43.98A.080.]

Notes: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14: See note following RCW [79A.15.010](#).

RCW 79A.15.090, Condemnation.

Moneys made available under this chapter for land acquisition shall not be used to acquire land through condemnation.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 10. Formerly RCW 43.98A.090.]

RCW 79A.15.100, Report to governor and standing committees.

On or before November 1st of each odd-numbered year, the committee shall submit to the governor and the standing committees of the legislature dealing with fiscal affairs, fish and wildlife, and natural resources a report detailing the acquisitions and development projects funded under this chapter during the immediately preceding biennium.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 11. Formerly RCW 43.98A.100.]

RCW 79A.15.110, Review of proposed project application. (Effective July 1, 2007.)

A state or local agency shall review the proposed project application with the county or city with jurisdiction over the project area prior to applying for funds for the acquisition of property under this chapter. The appropriate county or city legislative authority may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the committee identifying the authority's position with regard to the acquisition project. The committee shall make the letters received under this section available to the governor and the legislature when the prioritized project list is submitted under RCW [79A.15.120](#), [79A.15.060](#), and [79A.15.070](#).

[2005 c 303 § 5.]

Notes: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14: See note following RCW [79A.15.010](#).

RCW 79A.15.120 Riparian protection account — Use of funds. (Effective July 1, 2007.)

(1) The riparian protection account is established in the state treasury. The committee must administer the account in accordance with chapter 79A.25 RCW and this chapter, and hold it separate and apart from all other money, funds, and accounts of the committee.

(2) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the riparian protection account must be distributed for the acquisition or enhancement or restoration of riparian habitat. All enhancement or restoration projects, except those qualifying under subsection (10)(a) of this section, must include the acquisition of a real property interest in order to be eligible.

(3) State and local agencies and lead entities under chapter 77.85 RCW may apply for acquisition and enhancement or restoration funds for riparian habitat projects under subsection (1) of this section. Other state agencies not defined in RCW 79A.15.010, such as the department of transportation and the department of corrections, may enter into interagency agreements with state agencies to apply in partnership for funds under this section.

(4) The committee may adopt rules establishing acquisition policies and priorities for distributions from the riparian protection account.

(5) Except as provided in RCW 79A.15.030(7), moneys appropriated for this section may not be used by the committee to fund staff positions or other overhead expenses, or by a state, regional, or local agency to fund operation or maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter.

(6) Moneys appropriated for this section may be used by grant recipients for costs incidental to restoration and acquisition, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(7) Moneys appropriated for this section may be used to fund mitigation banking projects involving the restoration, creation, enhancement, or preservation of riparian habitat, provided that the parties seeking to use the mitigation bank meet the matching requirements of subsection (8) of this section. The moneys from this section may not be used to supplant an obligation of a state or local agency to provide mitigation. For the purposes of this section, a mitigation bank means a site or sites where riparian habitat is restored, created, enhanced, or in exceptional

circumstances, preserved expressly for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation in advance of authorized project impacts to similar resources.

(8) The committee may not approve a local project where the local agency share is less than the amount to be awarded from the riparian protection account. In-kind contributions, including contributions of a real property interest in land may be used to satisfy the local agency's share.

(9) State agencies receiving grants for acquisition of land under this section must pay an amount in lieu of real property taxes equal to the amount of tax that would be due if the land were taxable as open space land under chapter 84.34 RCW except taxes levied for any state purpose, plus an additional amount for control of noxious weeds equal to that which would be paid if such lands were privately owned. The county assessor and county legislative authority shall assist in determining the appropriate calculation of the amount of tax that would be due.

(10) In determining acquisition priorities with respect to the riparian protection account, the committee must consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

(a) Whether the project continues the conservation reserve enhancement program. Applications that extend the duration of leases of riparian areas that are currently enrolled in the conservation reserve enhancement program shall be eligible. Such applications are eligible for a conservation lease extension of at least twenty-five years of duration;

(b) Whether the projects are identified or recommended in a watershed planning process under chapter 247, Laws of 1998, salmon recovery planning under chapter 77.85 RCW, or other local plans, such as habitat conservation plans, and these must be highly considered in the process;

(c) Whether there is community support for the project;

(d) Whether the proposal includes an ongoing stewardship program that includes control of noxious weeds, detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of the funds from which the stewardship program will be funded;

(e) Whether there is an immediate threat to the site;

(f) Whether the quality of the habitat is improved or, for projects including restoration or enhancement, the potential for restoring quality habitat including linkage of the site to other high quality habitat;

(g) Whether the project is consistent with a local land use plan, or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan. The projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130 must be highly considered in the process;

(h) Whether the site has educational or scientific value; and

(i) Whether the site has passive recreational values for walking trails, wildlife viewing, or the observation of natural settings.

(11) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the committee will recommend to the governor a prioritized list of projects to be funded under this section. The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the committee and will submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list must include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular match requirement.

[2005 c 303 § 6.]

Notes: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14: See note following RCW [79A.15.010](#).

RCW 79A.15.130, Farmlands preservation account — Use of funds. (Effective July 1, 2007.

(1) The farmlands preservation account is established in the state treasury. The committee will administer the account in accordance with chapter 79A.25 RCW and this chapter, and hold it separate and apart from all other money, funds, and accounts of the committee. Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the farmlands preservation account must be distributed for the acquisition and preservation of farmlands in order to maintain the opportunity for agricultural activity upon these lands.

(2)(a) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the farmlands preservation account may be

distributed for (i) the fee simple or less than fee simple acquisition of farmlands; (ii) the enhancement or restoration of ecological functions on those properties; or (iii) both. In order for a farmland preservation grant to provide for an environmental enhancement or restoration project, the project must include the acquisition of a real property interest.

(b) If a city or county acquires a property through this program in fee simple, the city or county shall endeavor to secure preservation of the property through placing a conservation easement, or other form of deed restriction, on the property which dedicates the land to agricultural use and retains one or more property rights in perpetuity. Once an easement or other form of deed restriction is placed on the property, the city or county shall seek to sell the property, at fair market value, to a person or persons who will maintain the property in agricultural production. Any moneys from the sale of the property shall either be used to purchase interests in additional properties, which meet the criteria in subsection (9) of this section, or to repay the grant from the state which was originally used to purchase the property.

(3) Cities and counties may apply for acquisition and enhancement or restoration funds for farmland preservation projects within their jurisdictions under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The committee may adopt rules establishing acquisition and enhancement or restoration policies and priorities for distributions from the farmlands preservation account.

(5) The acquisition of a property right in a project under this section by a county or city does not provide a right of access to the property by the public unless explicitly provided for in a conservation easement or other form of deed restriction.

(6) Except as provided in RCW [79A.15.030](#)(7), moneys appropriated for this section may not be used by the committee to fund staff positions or other overhead expenses, or by a city or county to fund operation or maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter.

(7) Moneys appropriated for this section may be used by grant recipients for costs incidental to restoration and acquisition, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(8) The committee may not approve a local project

where the local agency's share is less than the amount to be awarded from the farmlands preservation account. In-kind contributions, including contributions of a real property interest in land, may be used to satisfy the local agency's share.

(9) In determining the acquisition priorities, the committee must consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

- (a) Community support for the project;
- (b) A recommendation as part of a limiting factors or critical pathways analysis, a watershed plan or habitat conservation plan, or a coordinated region wide prioritization effort;
- (c) The likelihood of the conversion of the site to nonagricultural or more highly developed usage;
- (d) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan. The projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130 must be highly considered in the process;
- (e) Benefits to salmonids;
- (f) Benefits to other fish and wildlife habitat;
- (g) Integration with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;
- (h) The viability of the site for continued agricultural production, including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Soil types;
 - (ii) On-site production and support facilities such as barns, irrigation systems, crop processing and storage facilities, wells, housing, livestock sheds, and other farming infrastructure;
 - (iii) Suitability for producing different types or varieties of crops;
 - (iv) Farm-to-market access;
 - (v) Water availability; and
 - (i) Other community values provided by the property when used as agricultural land, including, but not limited to:

- (i) Viewshed;
- (ii) Aquifer recharge;
- (iii) Occasional or periodic collector for storm water runoff;
- (iv) Agricultural sector job creation;
- (v) Migratory bird habitat and forage area; and
- (vi) Educational and curriculum potential.

(10) In allotting funds for environmental enhancement or restoration projects, the committee will require the projects to meet the following criteria:

- (a) Enhancement or restoration projects must further the ecological functions of the farmlands;
- (b) The projects, such as fencing, bridging watercourses, replanting native vegetation, replacing culverts, clearing of waterways, etc., must be less than fifty percent of the acquisition cost of the project including any in-kind contribution by any party;
- (c) The projects should be based on accepted methods of achieving beneficial enhancement or restoration results; and
- (d) The projects should enhance the viability of the preserved farmland to provide agricultural production while conforming to any legal requirements for habitat protection.

(11) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the committee will recommend to the governor a prioritized list of all projects to be funded under this section. The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the committee and must submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list must include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular match requirement.
[2005 c 303 § 7.]

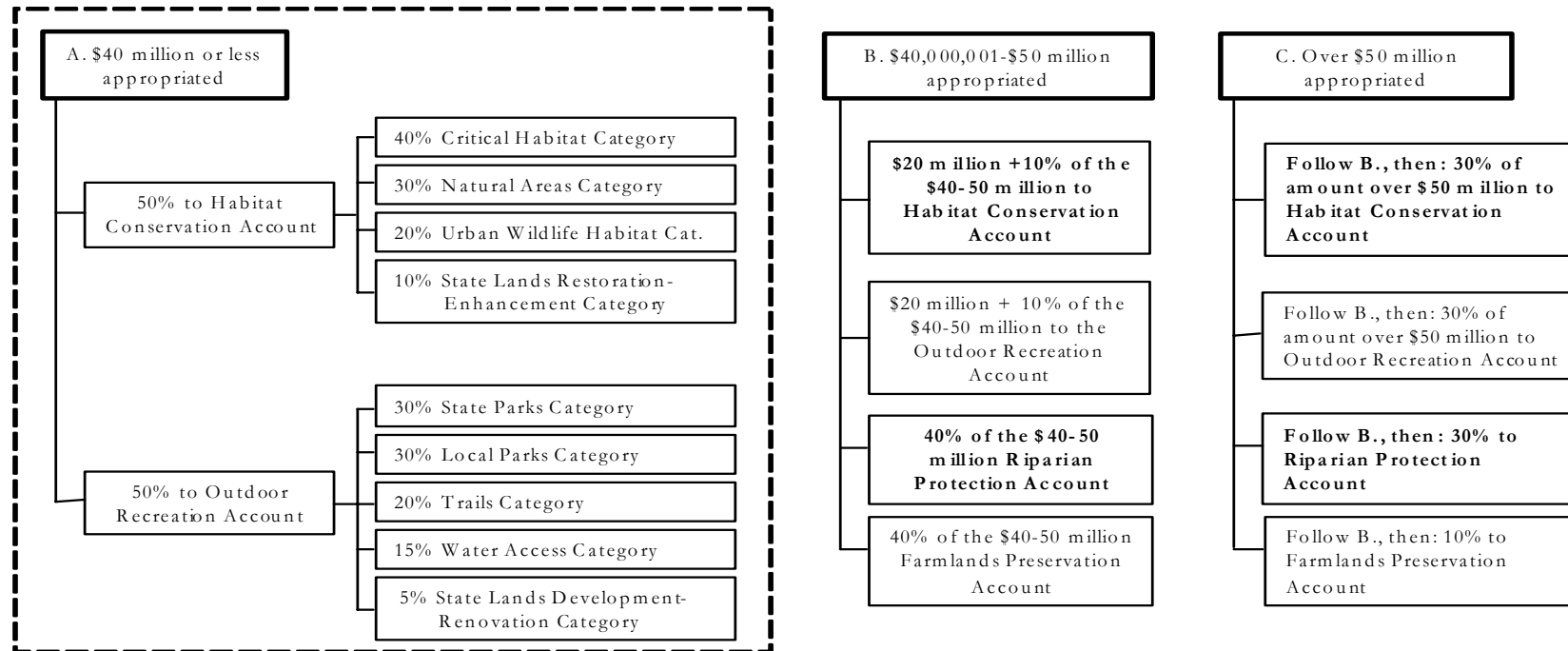
Notes: Effective date -- 2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:
See note following RCW [79A.15.010](#).

**RCW 79A.15.900, Severability -- 1990 1st ex.s.
c 14.**

If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 12. Formerly RCW 43.98A.900.]

Appendix B. Allocation of WWRP Funds



RCW 79A.15.030:

(a) Appropriations for a biennium of \$40 million or less must be allocated equally between HCA and ORA.

(b) If appropriations for a biennium total *more than \$40 million*, the money must be allocated as follows:

(i) \$20 million to HCA and \$20 million to ORA;

(ii) Any amount over \$40 million up to \$50 million shall be allocated as follows:

A) 10% to HCA; (B) 10% to ORA; (C) 40% to RPA; (D) 40% to FPA;

(iii) Any amounts over \$50 million must be allocated as follows:

(A) 30% to HCA; (B) 30% to ORA; (C) 30% to RPA; and (D) 10% to FPA.

50% of the funds allocated to the Local Parks and State Parks categories must be used for acquisition.

75% of the Water Access category funds must be used for acquisition.

Under distribution scenarios B and C, Habitat Conservation Account and Outdoor Recreation Account funds are distributed as shown in the nine categories under scenario A.

Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

Evaluation Criteria Critical Habitat Category (Local & State Agencies)

“Critical habitat means lands important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including, but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk, and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat, and habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.” RCW 79A.15.010

WWRP - Critical Habitat Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement] 	Not scored
Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness/significance of the site • Fish and wildlife species and/or communities • Quality of habitat 	20
Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species/communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Rarity 	10
Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediacy of threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • On-going stewardship 	15
Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5
Total Points Possible		50

WWRP Scoring Criteria

Critical Habitat Category

1. Ecological/Biological Characteristics. Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(iii, v - vii, xi, xiv); (6)(b)(ii)

“Paint a picture” of your project for the evaluators - the what, where, and why. This is the “heart” of your presentation and evaluators will draw conclusions based on the information presented about the *quality and function of the habitat* and the *demonstrated need to protect* it for fish and/or wildlife.

THE BIGGER PICTURE. How is this project supported by a current plan (i.e., species management population plan, habitat conservation, local, watershed, statewide, agency, or conservation), or a coordinated region-wide prioritization effort? What is the status of the plan? Does this project assist in implementation of a local shoreline master program, updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130? What process was used to identify this project as a priority? What specific role does this project play in a broader watershed or landscape picture? Is it part of a phased project? Is it a stand-alone site/habitat?

Local agencies only - What is the statewide significance of the project site? Does it meet priorities identified in a state plan? What elevates this site to a state significance level as opposed to a site that meets needs identified for the local community?

UNIQUENESS/SIGNIFICANCE. Explain how the site is unique or significant on a global, regional, state, ecosystem, and/or watershed level. How unique is the site in relation to habitat quality, connectivity, diversity, and rarity? How is the site important in providing critical habitat or biological function for wildlife species/communities? How does this site compare to others of the same type?

FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES. Which, if any, are the target species or communities⁸? (*“Target species” may or may not be special status species.*) Are the target species/communities geographically isolated to this particular site? Explain the condition of the population of target species. Which species have the potential and likelihood to use the site in the future and will reintroduction occur naturally or otherwise?

⁸ A *target species or community* is your project’s primary objective for protection and stands to gain the greatest benefit from the acquisition. For example, a project’s primary objective may be to acquire and protect high quality shrub-steppe. This is the “target community” but that community also provides important habitat for shrub-steppe-dependent species.

QUALITY OF HABITAT. Describe the ecological and biological quality of the habitat. What specific role does the habitat play in supporting the species/communities using the site? How is this habitat important in providing food, water, cover, connectivity, and resting areas? Are the size, quality, and other characteristics of the habitat adequate to support the target species/communities within the context of the project areas? Has the habitat or characteristics of the site been identified as limiting factors or critical pathways to the target species/communities?

Revised April 18, 2006

2. Species and/or Communities with Special Status. What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table (page 67)?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(iv, ix, xiii.)

This question's intent is to determine the significance of the species or communities with special status and how they may benefit from your project. Some special status species or communities may benefit on a more passive basis, while others may benefit directly. In the interest of time, you may want to address only the species or communities that benefit the most from this project.

IMMEDIACY OF THREAT TO THE SPECIES/COMMUNITIES. Describe the immediacy of threat to the species/community (e.g., imminent danger of extinction or extirpation; threatened within the foreseeable future, or concern because of current trends; population stable, but catastrophic event could threaten; no foreseeable threat).

IMPORTANCE OF HABITAT ACQUISITION TO SPECIES/COMMUNITY PROTECTION OR RECOVERY. Describe the relative importance of habitat acquisition when compared to other protection or recovery tasks such as habitat restoration, captive breeding, translocation, regulatory protection, etc. Describe the distribution or range and, if known, the abundance of the species or community. Identify any recovery plans, conservation strategies or similar plans that include reference to this site. How does this project assist with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species?

ECOLOGICAL ROLES. Does the species play an especially important role in the ecosystem in which it lives? Do other species depend on it for their survival? Will its loss substantially alter the functioning of the ecosystem?

TAXONOMIC DISTINCTNESS. How evolutionarily distinct is the species in question? That is, is it recognized as the only species in its genus or is it one of ten species in the genus? Is it only recognized as a subspecies? Example: Some scientists think that more evolutionarily distinct organisms should have a higher priority for protection. Based on this assumption, if all else is equal, saving the sole surviving member of a genus may have a higher priority than saving an imperiled species within a large genus that contains many other species. Similarly, protecting a full species would normally be given a higher priority than protecting a subspecies and population. Example: The Olympic mudminnow (*Novumbra hubbsi*) is the sole surviving member of its genus *Novumbra*, whereas, the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is a member of a large genus containing 37 species.

RARITY. Describe the distribution or range and, if known, the abundance of a species or community. Examples: The Olympic mudminnow occurs in western Washington and nowhere else in the world. The number of populations are fewer than in the past, but 14 of 16 populations monitored from 1993-1998 appear stable and in no immediate danger of extinction. The peregrine falcon is cosmopolitan, occurring on every continent. The two Washington subspecies were endangered; they increased from a low of 1 known breeding pair in 1978 to 56 breeding pair in 1999. The federal government considers this species recovered in the United States; it was removed from the federal endangered species list in 1999, but will be monitored for another decade.

Revised April 18, 2006

3. Manageability and Viability. What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long term and why is it important to secure it now?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(ii, iv, viii, x)

This question's intent is to determine whether the site can be managed, and how it will be managed, to protect the target species or communities.

IMMEDIACY OF THREAT TO THE HABITAT. What, and how imminent, are the threats to the habitat at the site (i.e., inherent, ecological, human, conversion, abatable and/or non-abatable threats)? Are these new threats or ongoing threats? How do or will these threats affect the function of the habitat? How will protection of the site affect these threats? What steps have already been taken to secure the land or reduce the threats?

LONG-TERM VIABILITY. What regulatory protections are currently afforded the site (i.e., County Comprehensive Plan, Critical Areas Ordinances, zoning, development regulation, Shoreline Management rules, Forest Practice rules including Landowner Landscape Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans, etc.)? Demonstrate how the site will be managed over time to maintain the desired characteristics. Who will maintain it and what human and financial resources are available to do it? What management needs are there? Is the habitat recoverable? What restorative efforts, if any, are needed/planned? What is happening across the landscape or watershed that may affect the viability of the site? Describe any long-term site monitoring plans and identify who will implement monitoring?

ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PROTECTED LAND. Are there other protected lands (public and private) near or adjoining this site that have complementary or compatible land uses for the target species (consider wide-ranging or migratory species)? Are they managed in a manner consistent with the needs of the target species/communities? Is this site part of a larger ownership? If so, describe the connectivity and management of the other land.

ON-GOING STEWARDSHIP. Describe the on-going stewardship program for the site that includes control of noxious weeds and detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of funds from which the program will be funded.

4. Public Benefit. To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(i, xii)

This question's intent is to find out what the *unique* public benefits are of your project. Public benefit should not be equated with "public access.". The question is not meant to discount projects for *not* having overwhelming support or educational opportunities. It may be that your project has one or the other qualities and not both. Your answer will be scored on those unique qualities and how they are appropriate for, or of benefit to, your project.

PROJECT SUPPORT.

- a. Describe the support/partnerships you have from the community, interest groups, volunteers, public agencies, etc. How have you involved these groups in project development? Explain any known opposition to the project.
- b. Describe and document other monetary means that have been secured to help cover the costs for the project, i.e., grants, donations, in-kind contributions, etc.

EDUCATIONAL AND/OR SCIENTIFIC VALUE. Describe the scientific and educational values of the site. Is there an identified research or educational need documented in a management plan, thesis, or scientific journal related to the habitat, species, or communities at the site? How likely is it that these opportunities will come to fruition? How accessible is the site for these activities?

Revised May 7, 2003

Instructions: Species and Communities with Special Status Table

Species and Communities With Special Status Table. Complete and submit the table on page 68. This is a required part of the application. Staff will verify the information and evaluators will be given a copy of the table along with the other project materials. This table relates directly to Evaluation Question #2, Species and Communities with Special Status, with emphasis on the significance of the species. As part of the presentation, applicants must describe the significance information to evaluators for scoring.

Species, Community or Habitat Type. List each species, community, or habitat type with special status present in your project area or work site.

Occurrence. For special status animal species, indicate whether the occurrence of the species at the site is *breeding, feeding, migration, resting, perching, roosting, wintering, rearing, spawning, year-round resident, individual occurrence, or unknown*. For special status plant species, communities or habitat types, enter "N/A" in the occurrence column.

Status and Source. Indicate the status of the species and the source from which you obtained the information. Federal and state status and source information follows:

Federally Listed Species:

- Resident fish and wildlife—Endangered Species Office, Lacey (360) 753-9440
- Pacific salmon species—National Marine Fisheries Service; www.noaa.gov/

State Listed Species and Candidate Species:

- Endangered Species Section, WDFW, (360) 902-2515; www.wa.gov/wdfw/wildlife.htm

Priority Habitats and Species:

- Priority Habitat and Species Program, WDFW, (360) 902-2543; www.wa.gov/wdfw/habitat.htm

State Listed Plant Species and Communities:

- Natural Heritage Program, DNR (360) 902-1667; www.dnr.wa.gov/

IAC will provide data request forms for both state databases. If your information came from a source other than these (such as a consultant or local biologist), please indicate on your form.

Federal Status		State Status	
FE	Endangered	SE	State endangered
FT	Threatened	ST	State threatened
FP	Proposed for threatened or endangered	SS	State sensitive
FC	Candidate for listing status review	SC	Candidate for listing status review
FSC	Species of concern	PS	Priority Species, non-listed but vulnerable
		PH	Priority Habitat
		P1, P2, P3	Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3 (plants)

Example Table:

Species, Community or Habitat Type	Occurrence	Status	Source
Douglas Fir/ Western Hemlock/ Swordfern Community	N/A	P 2	DNR – WNHP
Brown Pelican	foraging, resting	FE, SE	WDFW – PHS
Thompson's Clover	N/A	P 2	DNR – WNHP
Chinook Salmon	rearing	FE	NMFS; SSHIAP *
Western Pond Turtle	year-round resid't	FSC, SE	USFWS; Consultant
Riparian Area	N/A	PH	WDFW – PHS

* SSHIAP Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program (NW Indian Fisheries Commission /WDFW)

[illegible]

Date: _____

Check one: ☐ **Critical Habitat** ☐ **Natural Areas** ☐ **State Lands Restoration**
☐ **Urban Wildlife Habitat**

[illegible]

Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

Evaluation Criteria Natural Areas Category (State Agencies)

“Natural Areas means areas that have, to a significant degree, retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value.” RCW 79A.15.010

WWRP - Natural Areas Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement] 	Not scored
Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness/significance of the site • Species and/or communities • Quality of Habitat / Natural Features 	20
Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species/communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness 	10
Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediacy of threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • On-going stewardship 	15
Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5
Total Points Possible		50

WWRP Scoring Criteria

Natural Areas Category

1. Ecological/Biological characteristics. Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(iii, v - vii, xi); (6)(b)(ii)

“Paint a picture” of your project for the evaluators - the what, where, and why. This is the “heart” of your presentation and evaluators will draw conclusions based on the information presented about the *quality and function of the plant community, habitat* or other unique geological or natural historical features and the *demonstrated need to protect* it.

THE BIGGER PICTURE. How is this project supported by a current plan (i.e., Natural Heritage Plan, habitat conservation, local, watershed, statewide, or species/community management or recovery plans), or a coordinated region-wide prioritization effort? What is the status of the plan? Does this project assist in implementation of a local shoreline master program, updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130? What process was used to identify this project as a priority? What specific role does this project play in a broader watershed or landscape picture? Is it part of a phased project? Is it a stand-alone site/habitat?

UNIQUENESS/SIGNIFICANCE. Explain how the site is unique or significant on a global, regional, state, ecosystem, and/or watershed level. How unique is the site in relation to habitat quality, connectivity, diversity, and rarity? How is the site important to the target species and/or communities? Are the target species and/or communities geographically isolated to this particular site? How does this site compare to others of the same type?

SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES. What significant species and/or communities currently exist on, or use the site? Which, if any, are the target species and/or communities? (*“Target species or communities” may or may not be special status species.*) Describe the community type(s) and explain the relative condition of the population of target species and/or communities. Which species and/or communities have the potential and likelihood to use the site in the future and will reintroduction occur naturally or otherwise?

QUALITY OF HABITAT/NATURAL FEATURES. Describe the ecological and biological quality of the site and how it supports the species or communities present. Describe how this site represents a native ecosystem, or, its rarity in relation to other types. Describe how this site retained, to a significant degree, its natural character. Are the size, quality, and other site characteristics adequate to support the target species or communities within the context of the Project Area? Has the habitat or characteristics of the site been identified as limiting factors or critical pathways to the target species/communities?

2. Species and/or Communities with Special Status. What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table (page 67)?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(iv, ix, xiii)

This question's intent is to determine the significance of the species or communities with special status and how they may benefit from your project. Some special status species or communities may benefit on a more passive basis, while others may benefit directly. *In the interest of time, you may want to address only the species or communities that benefit the most from this project.*

IMMEDIACY OF THREAT TO THE SPECIES/COMMUNITIES. Describe the immediacy of threat to the species/community (e.g., imminent danger of extinction of extirpation; threatened within the foreseeable future, or concern because of current trends; population stable, but catastrophic event could threaten; no foreseeable threat).

IMPORTANCE OF ACQUISITION TO SPECIES/COMMUNITY PROTECTION. Describe how this acquisition contributes to the conservation of these species or communities with special status. Describe the distribution or range and, if known, the abundance of the species or community. Identify any recovery plans, conservation strategies or similar plans that include reference to this site. How does this project assist with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species?

ECOLOGICAL ROLES. How will these communities or species benefit from this project? Describe how this project will provide ecological support for the communities or species with special status.

TAXONOMIC DISTINCTNESS. How evolutionarily distinct is the species in question? That is, is it recognized as the only species in its genus? Is it one of ten species in the genus? Is it only recognized at the subspecies level, i.e., as a variety or subspecies? Example: Water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*) is the only recognized species in the genus *Howellia*, whereas Buxbaum's sedge (*Carex buxbaumii*) is a member of a very large genus, consisting of more than one thousand recognized species. Presumably, the genetic material of water howellia is more distinctive from all other living species than is Buxbaum's sedge. Some scientists believe that more evolutionarily distinct organisms should have a higher priority for protection. Based on this assumption, if all else is equal, it would be more important to conserve water howellia than Buxbaum's sedge.

3. Manageability and Viability. What is the likelihood of the site being viable (functioning) over the long term and why is it important to secure it now?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(ii, iv, viii, x)

This question's intent is to determine whether the site can be managed, and how it will be managed, to protect the target species, communities, or natural features.

IMMEDIACY OF THREAT TO THE SITE. What, and how imminent, are the threats to the site (i.e., inherent, ecological, human, conversion, abatable and/or non-abatable threats)? Are these new threats or ongoing threats? How do or will these threats affect the function of the site? How will protection of the site affect these threats? What steps have already been taken to secure the land or reduce the threats?

LONG-TERM VIABILITY. What regulatory protections are already afforded the site (i.e., County Comprehensive Plan, Critical Areas Ordinances, zoning, development regulations, Shoreline Management rules, Forest Practice rules including Landowner Landscape Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans, etc.)? Demonstrate how the site will be managed over time to maintain the desired characteristics. Who will maintain it and what human and financial resources are available to do it? What management needs are there? What restorative efforts, if any, are needed or planned? What is happening across the landscape or watershed that may affect the viability of the site? Describe any long-term site monitoring plans and identify who will implement monitoring?

ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PROTECTED LAND. Are there other lands (public and private) near or adjoining this site that have complimentary or compatible land uses for the target species and/or communities? Are they managed in a manner consistent with the needs of the target species and/or communities? Is this site part of a larger ownership? If so, describe the connectivity and management of the other land.

ON-GOING STEWARDSHIP. Describe the on-going stewardship program for the site that includes control of noxious weeds and detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of funds from which the program will be funded.

4. Public Benefit. To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(i, xii)

This question's intent is to find out what the *unique* public benefits are of your project. Public benefit should not be equated with "public access." The question is not meant to discount projects for *not* having overwhelming support or educational opportunities. It may be that your project has one or the other qualities and not both. Your answer will be scored on those unique qualities and how they are appropriate for, or of benefit to, your project.

PROJECT SUPPORT.

- a. Describe the support/partnerships you have from the community, interest groups, volunteers, public agencies, etc. How have you involved these groups in project development? Explain any known opposition to the project.
- b. Describe and document other monetary means that have been secured to help cover the costs for the project, i.e., grants, donations, in-kind contributions, etc.

EDUCATIONAL AND/OR SCIENTIFIC VALUE. Describe the scientific and educational values of the site. Is there an identified research or educational need documented in a management plan, thesis, or scientific journal related to the habitat, species, or communities at the site? How likely is it that these opportunities will come to fruition? How accessible is the site for these activities?

Revised May 7, 2003

Instructions: Species and Communities with Special Status Table

Species and Communities With Special Status Table. Complete and submit the table on page 52. This is a required part of the application. Staff will verify the information and evaluators will be given a copy of the table along with the other project materials. This table relates directly to Evaluation Question #2, Species and Communities with Special Status, with emphasis on the significance of the species. As part of the presentation, applicants must describe the significance information to evaluators for scoring.

Species, Community or Habitat Type. List each species, community, or habitat type with special status present in your project area or work site.

Occurrence. For special status animal species, indicate whether the occurrence of the species at the site is *breeding, feeding, migration, resting, perching, roosting, wintering, rearing, spawning, year-round resident, individual occurrence, or unknown*. For special status plant species, communities or habitat types, enter "N/A" in the occurrence column.

Status and Source. Indicate the status of the species and the source from which you obtained the information. Federal and state status and source information follows:

Federally Listed Species:

- Resident fish and wildlife—Endangered Species Office, Lacey (360) 753-9440
- Pacific salmon species—National Marine Fisheries Service; www.noaa.gov/

State Listed Species and Candidate Species:

- Endangered Species Section, WDFW, (360) 902-2515; www.wa.gov/wdfw/wildlife.htm

Priority Habitats and Species:

- Priority Habitat and Species Program, WDFW, (360) 902-2543; www.wa.gov/wdfw/habitat.htm

State Listed Plant Species and Communities:

- Natural Heritage Program, DNR (360) 902-1667; www.dnr.wa.gov/

IAC will provide data request forms for both state databases. If your information came from a source other than these (such as a consultant or local biologist), please indicate on your form.

Federal Status		State Status	
FE	Endangered	SE	State endangered
FT	Threatened	ST	State threatened
FP	Proposed for threatened or endangered	SS	State sensitive
FC	Candidate for listing status review	SC	Candidate for listing status review
FSC	Species of concern	PS	Priority Species, non-listed but vulnerable
		PH	Priority Habitat
		P1, P2, P3	Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3 (plants)

Example Table:

Species, Community or Habitat Type	Occurrence	Status	Source
Douglas Fir/ Western Hemlock/ Swordfern Community	N/A	P 2	DNR – WNHP
Brown Pelican	foraging, resting	FE, SE	WDFW – PHS
Thompson's Clover	N/A	P 2	DNR – WNHP
Chinook Salmon	rearing	FE	NMFS; SSHIAP *
Western Pond Turtle	year-round resid't	FSC, SE	USFWS; Consultant
Riparian Area	N/A	PH	WDFW – PHS

* SSHIAP Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program (NW Indian Fisheries Commission /WDFW)

[illegible]

Date: _____

Check one: ☐ **Critical Habitat** ☐ **Natural Areas** ☐ **State Lands Restoration**
☐ **Urban Wildlife Habitat**

[illegible]



Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

Evaluation Criteria

Riparian Protection Account

(Tribal Government, State and Local Agencies, and Lead Entities)

Riparian habitat is defined as land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species. Riparian habitat includes, but is not limited to, shorelines and nearshore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers.

RCW 79A.15.101(7)

WWRP Riparian Protection Account Evaluation Criteria			
Criteria Number	Scored By	Criteria Topic	Maximum Score
1	Evaluation Team	Riparian Habitat Benefits	20
2	Evaluation Team	Planning Priority	20
3	Evaluation Team	Site Suitability and Project Design	20
4	Evaluation Team	Threats to the Habitat	15
5	Evaluation Team	Project Support	15
6	Evaluation Team	Public Access Opportunities	15
7	Evaluation Team	On-going Stewardship and Management	10
8	IAC Staff	Matching Share	4
9	IAC Staff	GMA Compliance	0
Maximum Possible Score			119

WWRP Scoring Criteria

Riparian Protection Account

(Criteria 1 through 7 are scored by the Evaluation Team)

1. Riparian Habitat Benefits

- Describe the specific riparian habitat benefits for this project.
- What riparian habitat types exist on site (e.g. wetland, stream, estuary, etc.)? What is the quality of the existing riparian habitat?
- How much of the proposed acquisition is classified as riparian habitat? Address the number of acres that are riparian and what percent of the total acquisition is classified as riparian.
- How was the riparian area defined? What standard was used to define the riparian area (e.g. flood migration zone, tree height, local regulations, etc.)?
- If acquisition of non-riparian property is included, address the need to acquire this type of land (e.g. extra buffer, landowner requires, etc).
- What are the ecological and biological characteristics of the proposed acquisition? What level of species diversity exists? Are there sensitive species on site?

Maximum score = 20

2. Planning Priority

- Is this project identified or recommended in a watershed planning process under chapter 90.82 RCW, salmon recovery planning under chapter 77.85 RCW, or other local plan, such as a habitat conservation plan?
RCW 79A.15.120(10)(b)
 - Projects identified in watershed plans developed under RCW 90.82 or salmon recovery plans developed under RCW 77.85 should receive a higher score.
- Is this project supported by any local land use plan, regional recreation or resource plan? Does the project help implement a local comprehensive plan or shoreline master plan?
RCW 79A.15.120(10)(g)
 - Projects supported by a local plan should receive a higher score.
- Describe the plan(s) and identify how it addresses acquisition of riparian habitat. Has the plan(s) been adopted by a governing body? How does this proposal help meet the goals and/or strategy of the plan(s)? How important is this project in comparison to other potential projects?
 - Projects identified as part of a plan that specifically addressed the acquisition of riparian habitat should receive a higher score.

Maximum score = 20

3. Site Suitability and Project Design

- Is this site linked to other quality habitats? *RCW 79A.15.120(10)(f)*
- Is this site linked to other protected habitats?
- What are the surrounding land uses including up, down, and across the stream or shoreline?
- What are the future potential additions to the public land base in the area? Is this site an “anchor site” for future opportunities?
- How is this project supported or not supported by local critical areas ordinances?
- What level of protection will be placed on the property? Will the site be protected in perpetuity?
- For projects involving restoration or enhancement, what is the potential for restoring quality habitat at the site? *RCW 79A.15.120(10)(f)*
 - What is the restoration plan? When will it be implemented?
 - If restoration is not included in this proposal, but needed, what is the plan for conducting restoration? Is funding secure to implement future restoration activities?
 - If restoration is part of this proposal, describe the restoration goals and project design.

Maximum Score = 20

4. Immediacy of Threat

RCW 79A.15.120(10)(e)

- What are the potential threats to the loss of riparian habitat at this property? Threats may be ecological, biological, or human caused.
- Are the potential threats new or on-going? Are the threats abatable?
- How do these threats affect the function of the riparian habitat?
- How will this project address these threats?
- What other alternatives exist to address these threats?

Maximum Score = 15

5. Project Support

- Community Support *RCW 79A.15.120(10)(c)*
 - Describe the community support for the plan(s) that identifies this project as a priority.
 - Describe the community support for this proposal specifically.
- What project partners are involved? Partners have demonstrated a commitment to assist with project implementation and/or long-term management of the site.

Maximum Score = 15

6. Public Access Opportunities

- Does this project include any passive recreation opportunities for walking, wildlife viewing, and observation? *RCW 79A.15.120(10)(i)*
- Does this site have any educational or scientific value? *RCW 79A.15.120(10)(h)*
 - Is there an identified research or educational need documented in a management plan, thesis, or scientific journal related to the habitat, species, or communities at the site?
 - How likely is it that these opportunities will come to fruition?
 - How accessible is the site for these activities?
- If public access is excluded, describe the circumstances such as habitat characteristics and/or private landowner desires that support restricting public access? How will access be monitored in order to protect the site?

Maximum Score = 15

7. On-Going Stewardship and Management

- What is the on-going stewardship and management plan for the site?
 - What level of stewardship is required for this proposal? Is there a stewardship plan already prepared?
 - What is the plan for inspection and enforcement of any easement acquired?
 - How will noxious weeds and invasive species be controlled?
RCW 79A.15.120(10)(d)
 - What is the source of funds for stewardship and management of the site?
RCW 79A.15.120(10)(d)
- How does the mission and authority of the applicant demonstrate the organization's capacity to manage the site?
- What is the probability of success for this project? What is the project sponsor's experience with riparian habitat land management?

Maximum score = 10

(Criteria 8 and 9 are scored by IAC staff)

8. Matching Shares

To what extent will the applicant match any IAC grant funds with other contributions?

This question is scored by IAC staff based on information submitted as part of the application. Native American tribes, local agencies, and lead entities are required to provide a fifty percent match (RCW 79A.15.120(8)). Ten percent of the fifty percent match must be from non-federal and non-state sources (proposed WAC change which may take effect February 2, 2006). State agency applicants are not required to provide a matching share.

All applications are scored on items a through e whether a match is required or not.

To qualify, contributions must be eligible for RPA funding.

- a. 50 percent of project's value will be contributed from other resources..... (0 point)
- b. 50.1 to 60 percent of project's value will be contributed from other resources(1 points)
- c. 60.1 to 70 percent of project's value will be contributed from other resources(2 points)
- d. 70.1 percent or more of project's value will be contributed from other resources(3 points)
- e. If the matching share includes non-federal or non-state contributions equivalent to more than ten percent of the total project cost:.....(Staff adds 1 point to the score assigned above.)

IAC staff scores a maximum of 4 points

9. GMA Preference

Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)? *RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required)*

State law requires that:

- (1) Whenever a state agency is considering awarding grants to finance public facilities, it shall consider whether the applicant -†- has adopted a comprehensive plan and development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.040 ("state law").
- (2) When reviewing such requests, the state agency shall accord additional preference to applicants-†- that have adopted the comprehensive plan and development regulations. An applicant-†- is deemed to have satisfied the requirements for adopting a comprehensive plan and development regulations if it:
 - Adopts or has adopted within the time periods specified in state law;
 - Adopts or has adopted by the time it requests a grant or loan; or
 - Demonstrates substantial progress toward adopting within the time periods specified in state law. An agency that is more than six months out of compliance with the time periods has not demonstrated substantial progress.
- (3) A request from an applicant planning under state law shall be accorded no additional preference based on subsection (2) over a request from an applicant-not planning under this state law.

This question is pre-scored by IAC staff based on information obtained from the state Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, GMA Division. To qualify for the current grant cycle, the GMA comprehensive plan and development regulations must be completed by IAC's Technical Completion Deadline.

- a. The applicant does *not* meet the requirements of RCW 43.17.250.....(minus 1 point)
- b. The applicant *meets* the requirements of RCW 43.17.250..... (0 points)
- c. The applicant is a non-profit, state agency, or tribal government (0 points)

IAC staff subtracts a maximum of 1 point

† County, city, town, and special district applicants only. This segment of the question does not apply to state agency, tribal government, or non-profit lead entity applicants.

Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

Evaluation Criteria

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

(WA Department of Fish and Wildlife & WA Department of Natural Resources)

“Restoration means bringing a site back to its original function through activities that can be reasonably expected to result in a site that is to the degree possible self sustaining; that is, the site will not require continual intervention to function as a predominately natural ecosystem. Enhancement improves the ecological functionality of a site.”

WWRP – State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Evaluation Summary			
Criteria Number	Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
	Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Project narrative [goal(s) and objective(s)] 	Not scored
1	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigger picture • Uniqueness/significance of the site • Quality of habitat 	15
2	Need for Restoration or Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated need for restoration/enhancement 	15
3	Long-Term Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land 	10
4	Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species/communities • Importance of restoration/enhancement • Ecological roles • Rarity 	5
5	Plan Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans • Prioritization efforts 	5
6	Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable benefits • Educational and/or scientific value • Community support 	5
Total Points Possible			55

WWRP Scoring Criteria

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

1. Ecological/Biological characteristics. Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

The Bigger Picture. “Paint a picture” of your project for the evaluators - the what, where, and why. This is the “heart” of your presentation and evaluators will draw conclusions based on the information presented about the *quality and function of the habitat* and the *demonstrated need to protect, restore, or enhance* it.

- What specific role does this project play in a broader watershed or landscape picture?
- Is this site part of a larger ownership? If so, describe the connectivity and management of the larger habitat area.
- What are the primary habitat functions?
- Does the project have functional connectivity with existing habitats?

Uniqueness/Significance. Explain how the site is unique or significant on a regional, ecosystem, watershed, and/or urban growth area level.

- What habitat types exist on site?
- How unique is the site in relation to habitat quality, connectivity, diversity, and rarity?
- How is the site important in providing critical habitat or biological function for wildlife species/communities?
- How does this site compare to others of the same type?

Quality Of Habitat. Describe the ecological and biological quality or potential quality of the habitat.

- What specific role does the habitat play in supporting the species/communities using the site?
- How is this habitat important in providing food, water, cover, connectivity, and resting areas for wildlife?
- What natural features make this site a priority for restoration/enhancement efforts?
- How well does the restoration or enhancement project contribute to supporting the target species or communities?
- Has the habitat or characteristics of the site been identified as limiting factors or critical pathways to the target species/communities?

Point Range: 0-5

Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points that are later multiplied by 3

- 2. Need for Restoration/Enhancement. What is the need for stewardship activities, whether restoration or enhancement?** Establish need by identifying comparable opportunities (quality and quantity). Describe the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need and plans to restore or enhance it.

- Is the site located in an ecologically critical area?
- Is the habitat recoverable?
- What is the restoration plan?
- Does this project enhance other restoration efforts with the same/similar goals?

Point Range: 0-5

Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points that are later multiplied by 3

- 3. Long-Term Manageability and Viability. Will the project result in restoring or enhancing land that function in a manner that is sustainable and integrates appropriately with bordering communities or habitats? What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long term and why is it important to restore or enhance it now? .**

Threats to the Habitat. What, and how imminent, are the threats (i.e., inherent, ecological, human, abatable and/or non-abatable threats) to the habitat at this site?

- Are these new threats or ongoing threats?
- How do or will these threats affect the function of the habitat?
- How will restoration/enhancement of the site affect these threats?
- What steps are you taking to reduce the threats?

Long-Term Viability. Describe how the site will be managed over time to maintain the desired characteristics.

- What is happening across the landscape or watershed that may affect the viability of the site?
- What are the long-term stewardship plans and the anticipated outcome? Describe any long-term site monitoring plans and identify who will implement monitoring?
- What human and financial resources are available to maintain the site? How will noxious weeds and invasive species be controlled?
- What regulatory protections are currently afforded to the site (i.e., Critical Areas Ordinances, zoning, development regulation, Shoreline Management rules, Forest Practice rules, etc.)?

Enhancement of Existing Protected Land. Described the other protected lands (public and private) near or adjoining this site that have complimentary or compatible land uses or habitats.

- Are they managed and monitored in a manner that is consistent with the stewardship plans for the project area?

Point Range: 0-5

Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points that are later multiplied by 2

4. Species and/or Communities with Special Status. What are the habitat communities or species of wildlife that will benefit most from the improvements proposed for this site?

This question's intent is to determine the significance of the species or communities with special status and how they may benefit from your project. Some special status species or communities may benefit on a more passive basis, while others may benefit directly.

Threat to the Species or Communities. Describe the threat to the species/community (e.g., imminent danger of extinction (range-wide); in imminent danger of extirpation (population); threatened within the foreseeable future, or concern because of current trends; population stable, but catastrophic event could threaten; no foreseeable threat).

Importance of Restoration/Enhancement for the Species/Community Protection or Recovery. Describe the relative importance of this habitat restoration or enhancement effort when compared to other protection /recovery tasks. Describe the distribution or range and, if known, the abundance of the species or community. Identify any recovery plans, conservation strategies or similar plans that include reference to this site.

Ecological Roles. What role does the target species play in the ecosystem in which it lives? Do other species depend on it for their survival? Will its loss substantially alter the functioning of the ecosystem? What role does the restoration or enhancement play in the viability of the larger ecosystem?

Rarity. Describe the distribution or range and, if known, the abundance of the species or community

Point Range: 0-5

Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points that are later multiplied by 1

5. Plan Priority. How is this project supported by a current plan (i.e. watershed, stewardship, state/regional resource, species management, shoreline, salmon recovery, open space, land use, habitat conservation, agency) or a coordinated prioritization effort? Describe the plan or prioritization efforts.

- What is the status of the plan(s)?
- How does this proposal help meet the goals and/or strategy of the plan?
- How important is this project in comparison to other potential projects?
- What process was used to identify this project as a priority?

Point Range: 0-5

Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points that are later multiplied by 1

6. Public Benefit. To what extent does this project result in measurable benefits for the species or community impacted as a result of this restoration or enhancement?

This question's intent is to find out what *unique* benefits your project provides to maintaining an ecologically diverse ecosystem and how are those benefits measured so you know you have been successful. This question is not meant to discount projects for *not* having overwhelming community support or educational opportunities. It may be that your project has qualities that provide a unique opportunity for the community to benefit from its implementation. Your answer will be scored on those unique qualities and how they are appropriate for, or are of benefit to, your project.

Measurable Benefits. The response should describe what ecosystem functions will be restored and how well will the proposed habitat actions address the restoration or enhancement needs identified.

Educational and Scientific Value. Describe the scientific and educational values of the site.

- Is there an identified research or educational need documented in a management plan, thesis, or scientific journal related to the habitat, species, or communities at the site?
- How likely is it that these opportunities will come to fruition?
- How accessible is the site for these activities?

Community Support. Describe the support or partnerships you have from the community, interest groups, volunteers, public agencies, etc.

- To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?
- How have you involved these groups in project development? Explain any known opposition to the project.
- Describe and document any monetary means that have been secured to help continue stewardship of the habitat area (i.e., endowments, grants, donations, public/private management agreements, etc.)

Point Range: 0-5

Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points that are later multiplied by 1

Instructions: Species and Communities with Special Status Table

Species and Communities With Special Status Table. Complete and submit the table on page 68. This is a required part of the application. Staff will verify the information and evaluators will be given a copy of the table along with the other project materials. This table relates directly to Evaluation Question #4, Species and Communities with Special Status, with emphasis on the significance of the species. As part of the evaluation question responses, applicants must describe the significance information to evaluators for scoring.

Species, Community or Habitat Type. List each species, community, or habitat type with special status present in your project area or work site.

Occurrence. For special status animal species, indicate whether the occurrence of the species at the site is *breeding, feeding, migration, resting, perching, roosting, wintering, rearing, spawning, year-round resident, individual occurrence, or unknown*. For special status plant species, communities or habitat types, enter "N/A" in the occurrence column.

Status and Source. Indicate the status of the species and the source from which you obtained the information. Federal and state status and source information follows:

Federally Listed Species:

- Resident fish and wildlife—Endangered Species Office, Lacey (360) 753-9440
- Pacific salmon species—National Marine Fisheries Service; www.noaa.gov/

State Listed Species and Candidate Species:

- Endangered Species Section, WDFW, (360) 902-2515; www.wa.gov/wdfw/wildlife.htm

Priority Habitats and Species:

- Priority Habitat and Species Program, WDFW, (360) 902-2543; www.wa.gov/wdfw/habitat.htm

State Listed Plant Species and Communities:

- Natural Heritage Program, DNR (360) 902-1667; www.wa.gov/dnr/

IAC will provide data request forms for both state databases. If your information came from a source other than these (such as a consultant or local biologist), please indicate on your form.

Federal Status		State Status	
FE	Endangered	SE	State endangered
FT	Threatened	ST	State threatened
FP	Proposed for threatened or endangered	SS	State sensitive
FC	Candidate for listing status review	SC	Candidate for listing status review
FSC	Species of concern	PS	Priority Species, non-listed but vulnerable
		PH	Priority Habitat
		P1, P2, P3	Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3 (plants)

Example Matrix:

Species, Community or Habitat Type	Occurrence	Status	Source
Douglas Fir/ Western Hemlock/ Swordfern Community	N/A	P 2	DNR – WNHP
Brown Pelican	foraging, resting	FE, SE	WDFW – PHS
Thompson's Clover	N/A	P 2	DNR – WNHP
Chinook Salmon	rearing	FE	NMFS; SSHIAP *
Western Pond Turtle	year-round resid't	FSC, SE	USFWS; Consultant
Riparian Area	N/A	PH	WDFW – PHS

* SSHIAP Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program (NW Indian Fisheries Commission /WDFW)

[illegible]

Date: _____

Check one: ☐ **Critical Habitat** ☐ **Natural Areas** ☐ **State Lands Restoration**
☐ **Urban Wildlife Habitat**

[illegible]



Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

Evaluation Criteria

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

(State & Local Agencies)

“Urban Wildlife Habitat means lands that provide habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area.” RCW 79A.15.010

WWRP - Urban Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement] 	Not scored
Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness/significance of the site • Fish and wildlife species and or communities • Quality of Habitat 	20
Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species/communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Rarity 	10
Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediacy of threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • On-going stewardship 	15
Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5
Public Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for, and appropriate level of, public use 	5
GMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMA Planning Requirement 	0
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of, and proximity to, the nearest urban area 	5
Total Points Possible		60

WWRP Scoring Criteria Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

1. Ecological/Biological characteristics. Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation? RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(iii, v - vii, xi); (6)(b)(ii)

“Paint a picture” of your project for the evaluators - the what, where, and why. This is the “heart” of your presentation and evaluators will draw conclusions based on the information presented about the *quality and function of the habitat* and the *demonstrated need to protect* it for fish and/or wildlife.

THE BIGGER PICTURE. How is this project supported by a current plan (i.e., local, watershed, statewide, agency, habitat conservation, open space, or species management plans), or a coordinated region-wide prioritization effort? What is the status of the plan? Does this project assist in implementation of a local shoreline master program, updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130? What process was used to identify this project as a priority? What specific role does this project play in a broader watershed or landscape picture? Is it part of a phased project? Is it a stand-alone site/habitat?

UNIQUENESS/SIGNIFICANCE. Explain how the site is unique or significant on a regional, ecosystem, watershed, and/or urban growth area level. How unique is the site in relation to habitat quality, connectivity, diversity, and rarity? How is the site important in providing critical habitat or biological function for wildlife species/communities? How does this site compare to others of the same type?

FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES. What significant species/communities currently use the site? Which, if any, are the target species or communities⁹? (*“Target species” may or may not be special status species.*) Are the target species/communities geographically isolated to this particular site? Explain the condition of the population of target species. Which species have the potential and likelihood to use the site in the future and will reintroduction occur naturally or otherwise?

QUALITY OF HABITAT. Describe the ecological and biological quality of the habitat. What specific role does the habitat play in supporting the species/communities using the site? How is this habitat important in providing food, water, cover, connectivity, and resting areas? Are the size, quality, and other characteristics of the habitat adequate to support the target species/communities within the context of the Project Area? Has the habitat or characteristics of the site been identified as limiting factors or critical pathways to the target species/communities?

Revised April 18, 2006

⁹ A *target species or community* is your project's primary objective for protection and stands to gain the greatest benefit from the acquisition. For example, a project's primary objective may be to acquire and protect high quality shrub-steppe. This is the “target community,” but that community also provides important habitat for shrub-steppe-dependent species.

2. Species and/or Communities with Special Status. What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status matrix (page 67)? RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a) (iv, ix, xiii)

In the interest of time, you may want to address only the species or communities that benefit the most from this project. This question's intent is to determine the significance of the species or communities with special status and how they may benefit from your project. Some special status species or communities may benefit on a more passive basis, while others may benefit directly.

IMMEDIACY OF THREAT TO THE SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES. Describe the immediacy of threat to the species/community (e.g., imminent danger of extinction (range-wide); in imminent danger of extirpation (population); threatened within the foreseeable future, or concern because of current trends; population stable, but catastrophic event could threaten; no foreseeable threat).

IMPORTANCE OF ACQUISITION TO SPECIES/COMMUNITY PROTECTION OR RECOVERY. Describe the relative importance of this acquisition when compared to other protection /recovery tasks such as habitat restoration, captive breeding, translocation, regulatory protection, etc. Describe the distribution or range and, if known, the abundance of the species or community. Identify any recovery plans, conservation strategies or similar plans that include reference to this site. How does this project assist with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species?

ECOLOGICAL ROLES. Does the species play an especially important role in the ecosystem in which it lives? Do other species depend on it for their survival? Will its loss substantially alter the functioning of the ecosystem?

TAXONOMIC DISTINCTNESS. How evolutionarily distinct is the species or community in question? That is, is it recognized as the only species in its genus or is it one of ten species in the genus? Is it only recognized as a subspecies? Some scientists think that more evolutionarily distinct organisms should have a higher priority for protection. Based on this assumption, if all else is equal, saving the sole surviving member of a genus may have a higher priority than saving an imperiled species within a large genus that contains many other species. Similarly, protecting a full species would normally be given a higher priority than protecting a subspecies and population. Example: The Olympic mudminnow (*Novumbra hubbsi*) is the sole surviving member of its genus *Novumbra*, whereas, the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is a member of a large genus containing 37 species.

RARITY. Describe the distribution or range and, if known, the abundance of the species or community. Examples: The Olympic mudminnow occurs in western Washington and nowhere else in the world. The number of populations are fewer than in the past, but 14 of 16 populations monitored from 1993-1998 appear stable and in no immediate danger of extinction. The peregrine falcon is cosmopolitan, occurring on every continent. The two Washington subspecies were endangered; they increased from a low of 1 known breeding pair in 1978 to 56 breeding pair in 1999. The federal government considers this species recovered in the United States; it was removed from the federal endangered species list in 1999, but will be monitored for another decade.

Revised April 18, 2006

3. Manageability and Viability. What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long term and why is it important to secure it now?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(ii, iv, viii, x)

This question's intent is to determine whether the site can be managed, and how it will be managed, to protect the target species or communities.

IMMEDIACY OF THREAT TO THE HABITAT. What, and how imminent, are the threats to the habitat at the site (i.e., inherent, ecological, human, conversion, abatable and/or non-abatable threats)? Are these new threats or ongoing threats? How do or will these threats affect the function of the habitat? How will protection of the site affect these threats? What steps have already been taken to secure the land or reduce the threats?

LONG-TERM VIABILITY. What regulatory protections are currently afforded to the site (i.e., County Comprehensive Plan, Critical Areas Ordinances, zoning, development regulation, Shoreline Management rules, Forest Practice rules, etc.)? Demonstrate how the site will be managed over time to maintain the desired characteristics. Who will maintain it and what human and financial resources are available to do it? What management needs are there? Is the habitat recoverable? What restorative efforts, if any, are needed/planned? What is happening across the landscape or watershed that may affect the viability of the site? Describe any long-term site monitoring plans and identify who will implement monitoring?

ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PROTECTED LAND. Are there other protected lands (public and private) near or adjoining this site that have complementary or compatible land uses for the target species (consider wide-ranging or migratory species)? Are they managed in a manner consistent with the needs of the target species/communities? Is this site part of a larger ownership? If so, describe the connectivity and management of the other land.

ON-GOING STEWARDSHIP. Describe the on-going stewardship program for the site that includes control of noxious weeds and detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of funds from which the program will be funded.

Revised April 18, 2006

4. Public Benefit. To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?

RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(i, xii)

This question's intent is to find out what *unique* benefits or support your project provides to organizations or communities. This question should not be equated with "public access" and is not meant to discount projects for *not* having overwhelming support or educational opportunities. It may be that your project has one or the other qualities and not both. Your answer will be scored on those unique qualities and how they are appropriate for, or of benefit to, your project.

PROJECT SUPPORT.

- a. Describe the support/partnerships you have from the community, interest groups, volunteers, public agencies, etc. How have you involved these groups in project development? Explain any known opposition to the project.
- b. Describe and document other monetary means that have been secured to help cover the costs for the project, i.e., grants, donations, in-kind contributions, etc.

EDUCATIONAL AND/OR SCIENTIFIC VALUE. Describe the scientific and educational values of the site. Is there an identified research or educational need documented in a management plan, thesis, or scientific journal related to the habitat, species, or communities at the site? How likely is it that these opportunities will come to fruition? How accessible is the site for these activities?

Revised May 7, 2003

5. Public Use. Does this project provide potential opportunities for public access, education, and/or enjoyment?

Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State –2002-2007, Chapters 1 and 5.

Public use/access is only encouraged when and where it is appropriate. The intent of the question is to determine what level of public access is provided that will ensure resource values are sustained. Your answer will be scored on how the opportunities provided are appropriate for, or of benefit to, your project.

DESCRIBE PUBLIC USE THAT IS OR WILL BE PROVIDED AND WHY IT IS APPROPRIATE. How will public use be managed to sustain resource values? Include important or unique details about construction techniques, placement of structures, timing of activities and access, on-site stewards, guided tours, etc. How likely is it that the public will use the site? How accessible is the site (in terms of remoteness, driving directions, distance from populated areas). Does the site provide opportunity for one or more special needs group? Will the site provide barrier-free access to persons challenged by sensory, mobility and or mental abilities? If so, briefly describe the facilities and how they meet ADA requirements/guidelines.

DESCRIBE WHY PUBLIC USE IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SITE. How will the site be managed to limit or restrict public use. Describe what it is about the site, habitat, or the species using the site, that makes it sensitive to public use. What other opportunities exist nearby for recreational or educational experiences by the public?

Appropriate level of public use when:	Possible points
Access is provided	0-5 pts.
Access is not provided	0-3 pts.

6. GMA Preference. Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?

RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required.)

State law requires that:

- (1) Whenever a state agency is considering awarding grants to finance public facilities, it shall consider whether the applicant -†- has adopted a comprehensive plan and development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.040 ("state law").
- (2) When reviewing such requests, the state agency shall accord additional preference to applicants-†- that have adopted the comprehensive plan and development regulations. An applicant-†- is deemed to have satisfied the requirements for adopting a comprehensive plan and development regulations if it:
 - Adopts or has adopted within the time periods specified in state law;
 - Adopts or has adopted by the time it requests a grant or loan; or
 - Demonstrates substantial progress toward adopting within the time periods specified in state law. An agency that is more than six months out of compliance with the time periods has not demonstrated substantial progress.
- (3) A request from an applicant planning under state law shall be accorded no additional preference based on subsection (2) over a request from an applicant-not planning under this state law.

This question is pre-scored by IAC staff based on information obtained from the state Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, GMA Division. To qualify for the current grant cycle, the GMA comprehensive plan and development regulations must be completed by IAC's Technical Completion Deadline.

- a. The applicant does *not* meet the requirements of RCW 43.17.250.....(minus 1 point)
- b. The applicant *meets* the requirements of RCW 43.17.250..... (0 points)
- c. The applicant is a nonprofit organization, state or federal agency (0 points)

IAC staff subtracts a maximum of 1 point; there is no multiplier.

† County, city, town, and special district applicants only. This segment of the question does not apply to nonprofit organizations or state and federal agency applicants.

7. Proximity to Urban Areas. Where is this project located with respect to urban growth areas, cities/towns, and county density?

Acquisition/Development; RCW 79A.25.250 (IAC urban area parks);
RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(b)(i)(WWRP);

This question is scored by IAC staff based on a map provided by the applicant. To receive credit, the map must describe the project area and contain a circle with a five-mile radius. As its hub, the circle must use the point on the project's boundary closest to a city or town. The single city or town (if any, including urban growth area boundary) with the highest population touched by the circles is counted in part "a," below. The result from "a" (cities) is added to the result from "b" (counties). This takes into account that counties with high *average* densities are made up of both high and low density areas.

Projects located near cities over 5000 population *and* within high density counties receive points from both "a" and "b".

A. Within 5 miles of a GMA urban growth area boundary or the boundary of an incorporated city/town. In either case, the score is based on the city/town population (OFM):

- 0 -4,999 (0 points)
- 5,000 -9,999 (1 point)
- 10,000 -29,999 (2 points)
- 30,000 -149,999 (3 points)
- 150,000 -299,999 (4 points)
- 300,000 -and above (5 points)

B. In a county with a population density (OFM) of:

- 0 -249 (0 points)
- 250 -324 (1 point)
- 325 -399 (2 points)
- 400 -474 (3 points)
- 475 -549 (4 points)
- 550 -and above (5 points)

IAC staff awards a maximum of 10 points that are later multiplied by 0.5.

Revised March 1997

Instructions: Species and Communities with Special Status Table

Species and Communities With Special Status Table. Complete and submit the table on page 68. This is a required part of the application. Staff will verify the information and evaluators will be given a copy of the table along with the other project materials. This table relates directly to Evaluation Question #2, Species and Communities with Special Status, with emphasis on the significance of the species. As part of the presentation, applicants must describe the significance information to evaluators for scoring.

Species, Community or Habitat Type. List each species, community, or habitat type with special status present in your project area or work site.

Occurrence. For special status animal species, indicate whether the occurrence of the species at the site is *breeding, feeding, migration, resting, perching, roosting, wintering, rearing, spawning, year-round resident, individual occurrence, or unknown*. For special status plant species, communities or habitat types, enter "N/A" in the occurrence column.

Status and Source. Indicate the status of the species and the source from which you obtained the information. Federal and state status and source information follows:

Federally Listed Species:

- Resident fish and wildlife—Endangered Species Office, Lacey (360) 753-9440
- Pacific salmon species—National Marine Fisheries Service; www.noaa.gov/

State Listed Species and Candidate Species:

- Endangered Species Section, WDFW, (360) 902-2515; www.wa.gov/wdfw/wildlife.htm

Priority Habitats and Species:

- Priority Habitat and Species Program, WDFW, (360) 902-2543; www.wa.gov/wdfw/habitat.htm

State Listed Plant Species and Communities:

- Natural Heritage Program, DNR (360) 902-1667; www.wa.gov/dnr/

IAC will provide data request forms for both state databases. If your information came from a source other than these (such as a consultant or local biologist), please indicate on your form.

Federal Status		State Status	
FE	Endangered	SE	State endangered
FT	Threatened	ST	State threatened
FP	Proposed for threatened or endangered	SS	State sensitive
FC	Candidate for listing status review	SC	Candidate for listing status review
FSC	Species of concern	PS	Priority Species, non-listed but vulnerable
		PH	Priority Habitat
		P1, P2, P3	Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3 (plants)

Example Matrix:

Species, Community or Habitat Type	Occurrence	Status	Source
Douglas Fir/ Western Hemlock/ Swordfern Community	N/A	P 2	DNR – WNHP
Brown Pelican	foraging, resting	FE, SE	WDFW – PHS
Thompson's Clover	N/A	P 2	DNR – WNHP
Chinook Salmon	rearing	FE	NMFS; SSHIAP *
Western Pond Turtle	year-round resid't	FSC, SE	USFWS; Consultant
Riparian Area	N/A	PH	WDFW – PHS

* SSHIAP Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program (NW Indian Fisheries Commission /WDFW)

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